

WALSALL

the chronicle

PROTESTERS PROMISE
TO PUT WIND UP
TURBINE DEVELOPER

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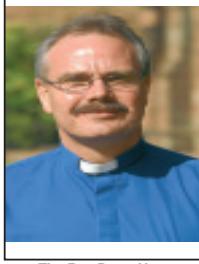
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The Rev Peter Hart

Ex-Saddler defends clerics' cricket cup

BISHOPS and vicars from the Black Country and Staffordshire set out today (Thursday) to become the first team to retain the Church Times Cricket Cup since 1991.

The clergy from the Diocese of Lichfield include former Walsall FC skipper the Rev Peter Hart, of Cannock.

Lichfield diocese takes on Guildford at the Walker Cricket Ground – a Middlesex ground in Southgate, north London.

The Lichfield team also includes the Bishop of Wolverhampton, the Rt Rev Clive Gregory, and is captained by the Methodist Superintendent Minister of

Stafford and Chaplain to HMP Stafford, the Rev Jeff Reynolds.

The Church Times Cricket Cup is sponsored by one of the two independently owned newspapers providing weekly coverage of Anglican affairs in England.

Partnership

The competition is now in its 61st year, making it the oldest one-day knock-out cricket competition in the world.

For most of that time, Lichfield diocese has not made a good showing, but in 2009 they were semi-finalists and in 2010 they made it to their first final, which they won.

This year, Lichfield have triumphed all their group matches, and 54-year-old Mr Hart, vicar of St Luke's of Cannock, and Dr Gregory shared in a partnership of 200 to beat Coventry.

Lichfield beat Chester in the quarter-finals before going on to triumph over Salisbury in the semi-final at Reading. The Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Rt Rev Mark Rylands, was Lichfield's top scorer with 67, and Salisbury all out for 70.

Yorkshire-born Mr Hart played 600 Football League games as a defender for Huddersfield Town and then Walsall between 1974 and 1990.

FIRM MUST PAY £12k FOR DUST AT CEMETERY

New bus station just the ticket



Councillors Angus Adams, Tom Ansell and Gary Clarke are joined by Angie Bolton, the bus station's manager, to put the finishing touches to the new station

BUS users in Walsall have been checking out the revamped Bradford Place bus interchange after its £430,000 revamp.

New shelters have been put in place and roads improved around the interchange, as part of a five week scheme.

The wraps came off the improved

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A WALSALL waste company accused of covering headstones at a neighbouring cemetery with dust has been ordered to pay more than £13,000. More than a dozen relatives visiting graves at James Bridge Cemetery, Darlaston, said they had to wash down headstones covered in grime which came from AB Waste Management.

Company director Andrew Bayliss admitted six counts of failing to comply with the requirements of an environmental permit at Walsall Magistrates Court.

Mr Dominic Patouchas, prosecuting on behalf of the council, said operations at the site, known as AB Skip Hire, involved rubble being delivered and crushed before being taken away. He said the problems were caused by mud from lorries falling on the carriageway and becoming airborne.

Weather

The court heard how a wheel wash designed to tackle the problem was not working when an environmental officer visited the premises in Cemetery Road in March 2010 and January and March of this year.

Miss Jennifer Joseph, mitigating, said the wheel wash had broken due to freezing weather. She added: "Mr Bayliss is doing everything he can to ensure further breaches do not happen."

The firm was fined £12,000 and must pay £1,024 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Dance classes off as floor fails

A COLLAPSED ceiling at a Walsall leisure centre has forced the council to cancel dance classes until further notice. The authority was still assessing the damage this week.

A section of ceiling at the dance studio at Walsall Gala Baths collapsed last Saturday afternoon. No-one was in the studio at the time.

Early indications were that the damage at the Tower Street centre was not structural, but the fitness suite above the dance studio has also been closed as a precaution.

Peter Jeffery, operations manager for sports and leisure, said: "It's a real shame, but the most important thing is that no-one was injured or harmed."

"The studio and its classes will remain closed for investigation."



Mia Middlebrook, aged four, of Walsall, says hello to Silly Sam

Here's looking at you, kid

VISITORS flocked to Walsall Leather Museum for the annual summer bank holiday fun day.

Performers, street dancers and artists were all on hand at the Littleton Street West venue to help keep youngsters amused including stilt walker Silly Sam.

Entertained

Grey and drizzly weather meant this year's activities were held inside, but organisers said it failed to dampen the spirits.

Francesca Cox, curator, said: "It's

been really, really busy despite the weather."

"Normally we hold this outside, but the weather has not been as good this year so we have moved inside and still had as many people."

One of the most popular attractions saw artistic youngsters make cardboard guitars which were hooked up to a sound system, allowing them to have the rock star experience.

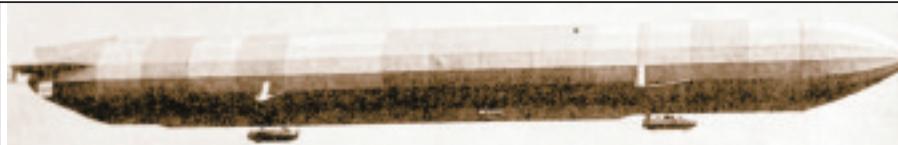
Stilt walker Silly Sam, also known as Sam Davey, was also on hand to help keep the crowds entertained.

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Airborne terror came first to Walsall in 1916 from a German Zeppelin – more than 530ft long and dropping 4,900lb of high explosive

Town Pc tackled Zeppelin bomb to save patients

ON JANUARY 31, 1916, a Walsall policeman tackled an incendiary dropped by a giant German airship and saved the lives of scores of patients and nurses in the town's hospital at The Mount. Pc Joseph Burrell's sight was irretrievably damaged during his act of gallantry, he had to leave the force eventually, and he struggled ever to find work thereafter.

Thirty-four people were killed that misty night in Tipton, Wednesbury and Walsall after Captain Max Dietrich on Zeppelin L21 decided he must have reached his designated Merseyside target and began dropping his payload of bombs.

Among the dead were a courting couple on the Wolverhampton Union Canal and the May Queen of Walsall, May Julia Slater, who was aboard a tram in Bradford Place where the Cenotaph now stands.

The three towns were hit by 35 bombs and 25 incendiaries, making a total of 4,900lb of explosive. Seventy years later the Walsall Chronicle quoted a survivor, Mr A K Stephens, who was injured. He remembered "pandemonium, but no panic. Someone shouted, 'Hey, look he's been hurt! I'd lost a lot of blood and could hardly walk and a couple of men took me home."

The hospital at The Mount could have been destroyed. That it was not was thanks to the bravery of Constable Burrell.

His grandson, Alan Hall of Walsall, has an account of his deeds that night from The Police Review and Parade Gossip, 1929.

In connection with these hitherto unpublished accounts, the Police Review had con-

tacted the now Sergeant Burrell, "who had performed an act of great bravery during the Zeppelin raid on Walsall in 1916."

The writer explained that "up to that time no mention had been made of the raid in the public Press, and that it was quite by chance that we became aware of Sgt Burrell".

Extinguish

With the Great War ended so recently Sgt Burrell was refused permission to give the Press any account of the circumstances, which prompted the committee of the hospital to present him with a silver medal".

After retirement, Burrell recounted to the Police Review that as he was patrolling his beat in the town centre he heard 11 explo-

sions. After an interval of about a minute there were seven more, this time very close to Walsall.

He heard a "peculiar noise in the air", and up to see a Zeppelin passing overhead, dropping bombs constantly. Two bombs fell on a church adjoining the hospital, wrecking it, and another fell between the men's and women's wards.

Burrell found himself covered with dirt and plaster. Fortunately, he had his cape folded over his left shoulder and this saved him from serious injury "for as he lifted his cape he was struck on that side of his neck and spun round, his neck being bruised".

When he had recovered himself it seemed that the hospital was in flames. Burrell ran to the entrance and found the nurses excited and unable to move. He sought to calm them by saying the noise was from "a new engine at the gas works" and rushed along through the women's ward, where an incendiary bomb was blazing between the wards.

Being unable to get anything to throw on it, the constable seized a piece of wood and got down on his hands and knees, the heat from the bomb being so fierce. He rolled it over and over for five feet or so, and found as he rolled it that the contents fell away. He then dashed the contents about and was able to extinguish the blaze.

His job done, the officer left the bomb to cool and went through the wards soothing the patients.

To mark his gallantry the hospital committee sent Burrell a gratuity of a guinea—£1 1s. Such was the measure of this most courageous and caring of men that he returned it as a subscription. The Walsall Watch committee also awarded him a guinea.

Later, the hospital presented him with an inscribed medal, which he was unable to wear during the war but which he always regarded as a great treasure.

Unhappily, Sgt Burrell's valour was all but forgotten in a land supposedly fit for heroes.

He went blind in 1924 as a result of the injuries he received from the Zeppelin incendiary and had to leave the police.

In the ensuing years he strove for work without success, but taught himself to read and write in Braille.



This newspaper photo caption said simply 'buildings in Walsall. Much destruction done'

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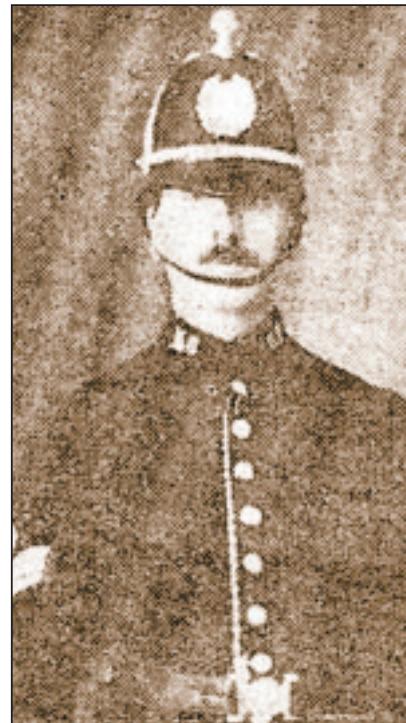


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Sgt Joseph Burrell in his police uniform



Above, the Walsall Cenotaph stands where a Zeppelin's bomb landed in 1916 and, left, the medal awarded to Sgt Joseph Burrell by Walsall & District Hospital for his gallantry

Anti-yobs fencing stolen in woodland

METAL thieves have struck at a Walsall beauty spot, stealing parts of a steel fence put up to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Railings costing £13,000 were put up around Moorcroft Wood Local Nature Reserve, Moxley, to protect the area from youths on scrambler bikes, but the site, off Hawksworth Drive, has now been targeted by thieves.

Four sections of fencing were taken, in all worth a total of £500.

Darlaston South ward's Councillor Paul Bott said: "The fence was put in to protect wildlife in the woods from anti-social behaviour and yobs and to create a boundary for the wildlife."

"We don't want this to become an on-going process where the fence is repaired then sections are stolen again. The friends group for the site has worked hard to get Section 106 money from other schemes to fund this."

Budget

Walsall's leisure chief, Councillor Anthony Harris, said: "This is a crying shame. The fence at Moorcroft Wood cost us £13,000 and helped keep scrambler bike riders out of the park."

Stealing four panels took a lot of time and effort and some professional cutting equipment, as it was made deliberately thicker and harder to cut to try and stop just such an incident."

At the moment we are scratching our head to try and find a budget."

Councillor Harris urged anyone with information about the theft to call West Midlands Police on 0345 113 5000.

Moorcroft Wood has been earmarked to become the home of a £2 million visitor centre.

The new building will become the headquarters of the Wildlife Trust in the area.

Father accused of threat to kill

A MAN from Walsall has appeared in court after being charged with threatening to kill his partner and 18-year-old son.

Daron Hewson, of Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, faces charges over Lesley and Jake Jennings.

The 38-year-old also faces charges of wounding Lesley Jennings and assaulting Jake Jennings.

He appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court via video link last Friday. The case was committed to crown court and Hewson was remanded in custody.

Rotary sale day

GOOD causes in Darlaston are in line for a boost with a fundraising sale. The Rotary Club of Darlaston is due to hold the charity sale on Saturday 10th September. The venue will be St Lawrence's Church, Church Street, from 9.30am to 1pm.

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Fat burners warming to new course

TOWNSFOLK who have vowed to fight the flab in Walsall can sign up to a slimming programme for 12 weeks from the end of this month.

Evolve runs at Oak Park leisure centre, in Walsall Wood, and in Bloxwich.

The aim is to encourage people to make small but realistic changes to their lifestyle such as increasing their levels of physical activity and altering their diet.

Funding

The weight loss programme is run through Walsall Council's sport and leisure development services team.

The course costs £40 or £35 per session. Men with a Body Mass Index above 30 can attend for free thanks to funding from NHS Walsall.

For more information call 01902 605500.

Injured hols man back in Britain

A MAN from Bentley was seriously injured when he was knocked off a quad bike while on holiday in Cyprus last year. He has been brought back to Walsall Manor Hospital.

Kieron Kellar, aged 22, was knocked from his quad bike on July 29 in Ayia Napa, Greece. Police are investigating the incident amid reports that it was a hit-and-run involving a van.

His insurers are refusing to pay medical fees, claiming his policy did not cover the use of quad bikes. Fundraising organised by family and friends has raised £7,000 so far.

Fundraiser Natalie Stanley said she was delighted about Kieron's return to Britain.

Gates to halt mini-motos

GATES have been installed at a problem alleyway in Walsall where residents have been plagued by noise and nuisance from mini-motos.

New barriers and bollards have now been erected in Sproat Avenue, Darlaston.

Residents complained the gap in the bollards already there was so wide, mini-motos and go-karts could still pass through and go-karts could

Arrest man spat at officer

A WALSALL man who stole to feed his drug and alcohol habits has been given a 20-week sentence for spitting at a policeman.

Aubrey Blick, of Walsall Road, Darlaston, was handed the jail term for assaulting a police constable and no separate penalty for the attempted theft of a £225 pedal bike.

Blick, aged 29, was told by Sandwell magistrates that he would spend 12 weeks in custody after spending seven days on remand already as well as having an electronic ankle tag for seven weeks.

Mr Peter Love, prosecuting, said Blick was arrested after returning to the scene of the attempted bike theft on June 29 this year in Warley Road, Oldbury, and being identified by the victim, David Hipkiss.

"He was shouting in the custody block and was told to calm down and he spat in the eyes and face of the officer."

Mr Andrew Chowdhury, defending, said Blick was lodging a complaint for unnecessary use of force by police officers.



Councillor Ian Shires

Buses protest goes online

A WALSALL councillor has used a new website, FixMyTransport.com, to voice people's opposition to the new 41 bus route.

Willenhall North's Councillor Ian Shires, says that he has had complaints from people living in Ashmore Lane, Lucknow Road, Coppice Lane and Cannock Road. Since the replacement of the 341 bus, residents have restricted access to their GP, employment in

Green Lane, Walsall, the Reedwood Shopping Centre, and direct routes into central Walsall, he added.

Councillor Shires has created a page on FixMyTransport.com in order to gain support for his campaign.

Anyone affected by the change in bus routes is invited to add their name to the issue, which has been sent to National Express West Midlands, which responds on the site.

Travel agent warned of jail for £82k theft



Sally Lane – guilty plea

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A TRUSTED manager at a travel agency illegally pocketed more than £82,000 after taking home money she was supposed to bank from the currency exchange, a court has been told.

Sally Lane, of Pelsall, was responsible for banking cash from Bowen Travel Group's currency exchange. But the 39-year-old instead pocketed the money exchanged for foreign currency by holiday-makers at the company's branch in Aldridge.

She has now been warned she faces a custodial sentence for taking the money over a period of more than two years when she is sentenced on September 21.

Lane, of Fordbrook Lane, Pelsall, admitted theft. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that she pocketed £82,700 between October 2008 and January this year.

Crown Prosecution Service spokesman Patrick Noonan told the court: "She was a manager at travel agents for the Bowen Travel Group."

"One of her responsibilities was banking the cash from the currency exchange which the travel agents operated.

Years

"Over a period of years she simply took the cash instead of banking it."

Lane, who worked at Bowen's in Croft Parade, Aldridge, appeared before Judge Martin Walsh court last Wednesday. She spoke only to confirm her name and to plead guilty to a charge of theft.

The case was adjourned for a report to be prepared, and Lane was bailed.

Judge Walsh told her: "You understand custody is a favourable option to the court."

Move travellers out, residents demand

TRAVELLERS have set up camp on land in Goscote for the second time in weeks – prompting council bosses to serve an eviction notice to move off.

A convoy of nine caravans settled on fields between Goscote Lane and Shakespeare Crescent.

Five caravans set up camp off Goscote Lodge Crescent in July.

Walsall Council officers were visiting the site to serve an enforcement notice after calls from residents, and will go to court if they do not move.

Councillor Ann Young said she had been "inundated" with calls from families demanding that the group be removed.

"We haven't had any complaints since they were put in."

Susan wins judges' hearts



Susan Loone, left, of Hearts and Flowers, celebrates winning best dressed shop window with Nikki Rolls, of the district centre management team

CELEBRATIONS are in full bloom at a florists in Bloxwich after it bagged an award for having the best dressed shop window display in the town.

Shopkeepers in Bloxwich town centre have been showcasing their creative skills as part of a competition run by Bloxwich Business Partnership and Walsall Council's district centre management team.

Hearts and Flowers, in High Street, scooped first prize for its Brazilian carnival theme, which includes a giant feather eye mask and tropical flowers.

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Gas boiler fitter must pay £5,900

A GAS engineer from Willenhall installed a gas boiler at a house despite not being registered to do so has been ordered to pay almost £6,000 at court.

Leslie Morgan, aged 64, of Cedar Road, installed the boiler at a Cannock house and issued a gas safety certificate despite not being on the compulsory Gas Safe Register.

He admitted a breach of health and safety relating to gas installation.

Stafford magistrates were told that Morgan's original gas safety training and registration permitted him only to work for a previous company, and had expired in 2006.

Inspector

The Health and Safety Executive wrote to him in 2008 informing to stop work or become properly trained and registered, after he was found to have carried out unregistered work in 2007.

Cannock Chase District Council raised concerns about a gas safety certificate issued by Morgan to the landlord. A further investigation found the certificate was issued illegally.

Morgan was fined £4,000 and ordered to pay £1,900 costs last Wednesday.

HSE inspector Wayne Owen said afterwards: "Any business or sole trader who carries out any work on any gas appliances without being on the Gas Safe Register is breaking the law."

Drink-driver had no lights at 3am

A WALSALL man spotted by police driving without lights after 3am subsequently failed a breath test.

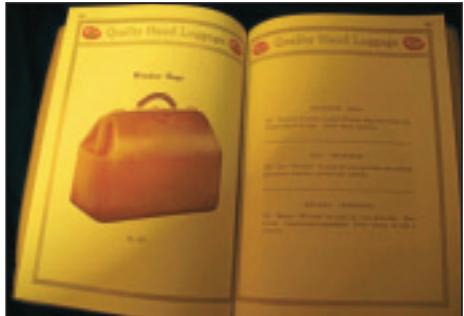
Ashley Smith, of Weston Crescent, Aldridge, admitted drink-driving when he appeared before Walsall magistrates last week. The 21-year-old also pleaded guilty to driving without insurance or valid driving licence.

Paul Hitchcock, prosecuting, said Smith was seen by a police officer in Westbrook Avenue, Aldridge, in the early hours of August 13, driving without lights.

Smith was found to have an alcohol reading of 61mg in his breath – 26mg above the limit. He was banned for 18 months and told to pay a £200 fine, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Sunday sale time

AN INDOOR car boot sale at Bloxwich's Star Ball Centre takes place on Sunday, September 11, from 11am to 4pm. Tables cost £10 or £5 for charities or community groups. Admission to the Abbotts Street centre is free, and there is a children's play corner and a cafe. Call 01922 403351 to book.



Windsor hand luggage in a catalogue at Jabez Cliff & Co



Drawers hang open after workers moved out



Badges, envelopes and sewing needles found in the former factory

Final sights of leather works before inferno

LEATHER strewn over the workstations and boxes of heavy-duty sewing machine needles dotted about – these photographs show what Walsall's Jabez Cliff & Co was frozen in time before it burned down last month. The pictures provide a rare look at the interior of the historic former leather works after its staff upped and left for a new site in Aldridge in 2009.

They were taken by an amateur photographer at the derelict building in April last year. Jabez Cliff & Co is one of the most famous names in Walsall's industrial heritage.

The company had operated from the plant in Lower Forster Street since 1876 before moving out two years ago. The old building near Walsall's ring road was gutted by fire on Monday, August 15. Parts of the building, including its pointed roof, have already been demolished on safety grounds and the rest is soon to follow.

The photographer, who didn't wish to be named, said she had always admired the landmark structure.

"I've always been interested in architecture and have always loved the Jabez Cliff building."

"I remember gazing up at it when I was little and my parents took me to Morrisons."

"It was a fantastic building. I was absolutely distraught when I heard

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about the fire. It really brought me to tears – that building was such an important part of Walsall and meant a great deal to me."

The cause of the blaze that destroyed the building may never be known says West Midlands Fire Service.

Distraught

The building is too unsafe for firefighters or investigation dogs to enter to find the cause, but police said the blaze had not been caused by arson.

Town centre traffic was halted as more than 60 firefighters tackled the

flames at the site, which is earmarked to become a £3 million health centre.

Cliff Kirby-Tibbits, a retired director of Jabez Cliff, said he was devastated.

"This is a sad loss for the town. That building has stood there since 1876."

Mr Kirby-Tibbits, aged 64, gives talks on Jabez Cliff and says there are believed to be more than a dozen ghosts haunting the old factory.

Mike Glasson, curator of Walsall Leather Museum, said the former factory was the most important landmark of the saddlery industry when Walsall led the world in leather goods.

"It was a lovely building, with wooden floors, high ceilings and really good quality lighting for the work benches because it was all hand work."

It has always been occupied by saddle makers, which made huge profits making saddles for the military during the Boer War between 1899 and 1902.



Leather-strewn work stations on the factory floor at Jabez Cliff & Co before the fire



Above, light streams into a workroom – essential for detailed handwork on leather – and Jabez Cliff & Co nameplates are on walls and beams; left, moulds for saddles were still hanging from a ceiling in April, two years after the firm moved out



Flames engulf Jabez Cliff & Co on August 15. Picture: Dan Johnson



Relief as new quarry road plan is submitted

PLANS for a new access road to stop lorries thundering past homes in an Aldridge neighbourhood have been submitted following a 30-year battle.

Families in Branton Hill Lane and Little Aston Road had complained for decades about the noise of lorries travelling past their homes to a nearby quarry. They claimed the vehicles were rumbling past their homes up to 200 times a day. But plans to end the noise for good by creating a new access road were delayed by the secretaries of state.

Residents were delighted when the scheme, submitted by Bliss Sand & Gravel Ltd, was given outline planning permission in 2009 after a planning inquiry.

Now an application has been submitted to Walsall Council for a new access road to the quarry, off Chester Road.

Councillor Tom Ansell welcomed the news and said it was a step in the right direction for the long-suffering homeowners. "It's been going on for more than 25 years. Residents have been fighting for a new entrance to this particular quarry," he said.

Grateful

"We're grateful that the Bliss organisation has now submitted those plans and hopefully can look forward to bringing some relief to the people of Branton Hill Lane."

Planning chiefs are set to consider the application over the coming weeks.

There had initially been fears a new access road would eat into green belt land but a planning inspector ruled outline permission should be granted because of the "significant benefit" it would bring to residents.

A report submitted to Walsall Council on behalf of Bliss Sand & Gravel Ltd says: "The proposal provides an opportunity to create a new vehicle access to connect the site directly to the primary road network, A452 Chester Road. Current HGV traffic using Branton Hill Lane can then be relocated to the proposed A452 access."

The planning application also seeks to relocate existing operations to a former quarried area on site.

Nobody from the company was available for comment.

Family flees blaze started by drier

FIRE crews battled a tumble drier blaze at a house in Walsall Wood.

Firefighters from Aldridge, Walsall and Bloxwich were called to Druids Walk at 11pm last Tuesday, August 30.

The occupants of the house, two adults and two children, evacuated the two bedroom property before crews arrived. The blaze destroyed the tumble drier and damaged an upstairs landing.

Firefighter Neil Goodwin said: "It was quite a large fire. It damaged about 10 to 15 per cent of the house."

Table-top sale at church

A TABLE-TOP sale takes place at Essington Wood Methodist Church on Saturday from 10am until 12pm.

Admission is free, and stalls and refreshments will be on offer at the church in Bursnips Road.

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All eyes on Chelsea

A TEENAGER from Walsall found herself in the frame for a top modelling contract this week after being picked from hundreds of hopefuls vying to be crowned spectacle wearer of the year.

Chelsea Wedge was joining eight other people who wear glasses at the regional final being held in Birmingham on Tuesday.

The 17-year-old Shelfield Academy student said: "I started

wearing glasses in April this year for reading and driving lessons.

"I really like wearing glasses – they're a lot more fashionable these days, with so many to choose from."

"People who don't even need prescription lenses are now accessorising with frames."

If successful, Chelsea could find herself strutting down the catwalk at the glitzy grand final in London on November 15.



Eyewear contestant Chelsea Wedge

Fire service bikes to patrol troubled estate

FIRE service bike patrols are to be launched on a Willenhall estate following a spate of deliberate late-night blazes.

The move is part of efforts to tackle problems in The Square in New Invention after arsonists repeatedly set alight bin bags at the rear of the shopping precinct.

West Midlands Fire Service launched an investigation after a fire escape leading to flats above the shops was blocked after bags of rubbish were set alight.

An action plan has now been set up in partnership with Walsall Council and Walsall Housing Group. The fire service

said its brigade bike team will carry out regular patrols in the vicinity, and arson awareness talks are to be given at schools.

The brigade has advised the council and the housing service to address refuse collection for the flats.

Incident

Among the ideas is to install a locked bin compound for residents. A security door on the staircase is also due to be repaired and the tenants are being asked to keep it shut. Letters have been sent to residents, shop owners and follow-up

visits made to the site, off Lichfield Road, following the latest incident on July 26.

West Midlands Fire Service spokeswoman Lindsey Preece said: "The bags routinely left in the access road at the rear of the shops were believed to belong to residents from the flats above. The council will only collect a set amount of residential waste each week. Anything over that quota is left at the roadside."

Councillor Tom Ansell said: "As both we and Walsall Housing Group own land in that area, we're looking to see how we can tackle it jointly."

New festive events for town centre

AN ICE rink, carol singers and Santa's grotto are being lined up to replace the axed Christmas lights switch-on this year in Walsall town centre.

The Walsall festive extravaganza, which was previously attended by celebrities including X Factor star Eoghan Quigg and Hollywood actor Matthew Marsden, was axed last year due to a lack of funding.

But more regular events throughout November and December are now being considered after talks between traders and bosses at Walsall Council.

The scaled-down activities being lined up include a fancy dress contest and window dressing competition. Festive lights and a traditional tree are also due to be put up.

Details are still being finalised and Walsall Market Traders Association chairman Tony Larmer said he would like to see music and theatre groups also perform.

Value

"When there is a bit of music going on and entertainment, it draws people in," he said. "We can still give Walsall a Christmas feel and this would be good for the town. Last year it was virtually non-existent."

Council leader Mike Bird said: "We believe we are delivering better value for money for residents, shoppers and visitors by providing a range of events during the festive season rather than just one event."

"We want to encourage families into the town centre for their late night shopping while giving them plenty of entertainment to enjoy at a more relaxing pace amid all the hustle and bustle."

"We will also be linking in with events planned by the shopping centres and charities over this period. Some of the events suggested would be a first for the town centre and will create a real buzz about the place."

Health bosses bid to halt A&E returns

HEALTH chiefs in Walsall have insisted they are working to ensure patients do not have to return to the Accident & Emergency department within a week.

It has emerged thousands of patients in the West Midlands are having to go back. Department of Health figures show Walsall Manor had 6.3 per cent of patients returning.

Jayne Tunstall, of Walsall Health care NHS Trust, said: "We are working very hard to ensure patients do not have to re-visit."

Walmsley's shuts up its furniture stores

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

FURNITURE chain Walmsley's has gone into administration, closing stores in Walsall, Staffordshire and the Black Country.

Shops in Walsall, Dudley and Stafford all closed their doors suddenly last Thursday, but the head office in Wednesbury and the Wolverhampton store remained open.

An unnamed buyer has taken on 25 out of more than 60 stores run by the company, and it was unclear how many jobs were being lost.

Leonard Curtis Business Rescue & Recovery has been appointed administrators. In a statement the company said: "A sale was complete immediately following the appointment to an unconnected company. The sale included all of the stock of the business and the buyer has taken over 25 of the stores."

The Wolverhampton store at Snow Hill and a branch in Northfield, Birmingham, were thought to be among the stores that have been saved.

Stores at Bradford Street, Walsall, and Castle Street, Dudley, were both closed on August 31, with notices in the window telling customers that the store had closed permanently.

Dipped

The note said: "Paul David Masters and Alan Roy Clifton were appointed Joint Administrators of Unibrook Ltd, trading as Walmsley's, on Wednesday, 31 August 2011. On the same date, the trade and certain of the assets of the Company were sold to an unconnected company. Following the sale this store has been closed permanently."

A recorded customer helpline has been set up on 0845 076 8459 and advises those who have paid deposits to call 0121 567 3018.

At the Walsall store a member of staff, who did not want to be named, said trade had dipped in the last three months.

In 2005 the company closed down shops in the Midlands after the parent company went into administration with branches in Kidderminster, West Bromwich, Halesowen and Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent closing down.

Man denies theft of copper piping

A MAN is to face trial after denying taking up to £3,500 worth of copper piping and tools from a Walsall house.

Adam Kreigel is charged with burglary of a dwelling and theft from Leekin Road, Coalpool, in March this year.

The 39-year-old, of Whitehall Road, was ordered to appear before Walsall Magistrates on October 24.

Crime crackdown on menu



Sgt Carl Steventon and Emma Harewood, chairwoman of Bloxwich Business Partnership, prepare to launch an initiative cracking down on retail crime

AN INITIATIVE cracking down on retail crime in Bloxwich town centre has been launched.

Cuppa for a Copper is being launched in partnership with police, local businesses and Walsall Council's district centre management team.

Businesses can sign up to the initiative for free, and staff will get a poster to display in their window.

The poster acts as an invitation to police to call in at any time, have a drink and get an update from the firm.

The initiative has been driven

forward by Walsall Council's district centre management team and Bloxwich Business Partnership who are working together to raise the profile of the town and attract more visitors.

Emma Harewood, chairwoman of Bloxwich Business Partnership, said: "The key point of this campaign is to act as a deterrent to would-be criminals."

"We already work closely with the police but this is just taking it a step further."

For more details call 01922 652507.

Zain Akhtar thought quickly and put out a blaze in his neighbour's flat

Teen neighbour is hero of blaze

A TEENAGER used buckets of water to put out a blaze at a block of flats in Walsall after neighbour's cooker caught fire. Computing student Zain Akhtar, aged 17, led Niazia Akhtar to safety after the grill over-heated caught fire in the ground floor flat in Whitehall Road, Palfrey.

The fire started at about 4.30pm on September 1 after Ms Akhtar switched on the cooker for a meal.

Zain said: "I was watching TV when I heard the lady from downstairs shouting. I ran downstairs to see what was wrong and she told me the kitchen was on fire. The whole cooker was on fire with flames all over it. So I rang 999 and filled a bucket with water to throw over it. I did this about six times before it went out."

Ms Akhtar, aged 27, unemployed, said she was grateful for Zain's help.

Pub conversion brings job boost

UP TO 15 new jobs will be created with the transformation of a well-known former Walsall pub into a supermarket.

The Spring Cottage, in Shelfield, is being converted into a Co-op convenience store. Work is under way to transform the Lichfield pub, but no opening date has been announced.

Louise Evans, Midcounties Co-operative spokeswoman, said: "We are currently developing this former pub site and have plans to open a convenience store there. We have always been keen to expand our presence in Walsall where we have traded for many years. We are delighted to be bringing the site back into use."

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Airport switch for rugby club

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WALSALL Rugby Club is drawing up plans to move to Aldridge Airport along with proposals for housing and car parking on its existing site.

The club wants to move to Bosty Lane, Aldridge, from Delves Road, Walsall, and has chosen Mar City as the developer.

A planning application is set to include four grass pitches, an all-weather pitch, training area, spectator stand and clubhouse.

Redevelopment at Delves Road would include additional car parking for the Walsall campus of Wolverhampton University, an access road and housing.

Upgrade

Club president Chris Emes said: "This will give an additional boost to the Walsall borough in that it will offer top facilities for aspiring young players."

Facilities would be available to hire for other sports such as hockey and football.

Mr Emes said the club had issues at Delves Road.

"These include lack of sufficient areas and the large investments that need to be made there to upgrade buildings, changing rooms and function rooms to ensure financial survival and meet RFU standards."

Phone theft advice

POLICE in Aldridge are advising schoolchildren how to keep phones, iPods and other items safe from theft.

Cuts boost charity



David James and customer Linda Morris, 43, of Walsall

tomers in his Extreme Hair Makeover lorry.

He said: "It went fantastically. I want to show women that looking good isn't all about what Gok Wan says."

"You can put on an outfit and feel good, but if your hair's not looking good, it puts the overall look on a downer."

Council in moves to block off travellers

A PERMANENT solution is being sought in a bid to stop travellers setting up camp in Pelsall.

Ways to block access on to the site off Walsall Road are being considered after families managed to remove a 3ft concrete barrier. Walsall Council has been in talks with the private landowner over ways to tackle the problem after 11 caravans set up camp last month.

A skip was put on standby to be used to seal off the site as a temporary measure while discussions go on about how best to stop transport convoys moving in.

Permanent

A more solid concrete structure is among the steps being considered with the aim of getting it in place as quickly as possible to ease the worries of villagers.

Pelsall ward's Councillor Marco Longhi said: "We are working as hard as we can towards a permanent solution."

"We will be looking for something to temporary block off and then proper concrete obstacles."

History fair at museum

A HISTORY fair will be held in Walsall next week.

The event at Walsall Museum, in Lichfield Street, will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm on Saturday, September 17.

Exhibits by local history societies, Walsall Local History Centre and Walsall Museums will be on show.

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Car boot sale axed in new blow to town

Top awards for dancers



Caitlin Carter, top, and Neave Russin at Dance City

TWO young dancers are celebrating two awards after pirouetting their way ahead of the competition.

Neave Russin and Caitlin Carter both study at Dance City in Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge, are already causing ripples on the dancefloor.

Neave, aged seven, was awarded high marks in all categories at The Terry Dance Festival in Birmingham last month, showing off her skills in a range of genres. She was awarded

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

PLANS to set up a monthly car boot sale on the former Brownhills Market site have been scrapped, leading to fears it is a "nail in the coffin" for the town.

Walsall Council chiefs have cited "strict controls" as the reason for plans to revive the empty market pitch being axed. It was hoped a car boot sale would draw people to Brownhills, and an independent operator expressed an interest.

The Thursday and Saturday market on the Silver Street site ended this summer, six months after its relaunch.

Doreen Gent, manager of the Acropolis coffee house next to the market site, said the decision not to allow a car boot sale was a blow to the area.

She said parts of Brownhills were like a "ghost town" with traders struggling to survive.

Loss

"The car boot sale gave us fresh hope as it would have helped bring shoppers into the town. It would not have interfered with other shops. We have already had the loss of the market and now it feels like the nail in the coffin."

But council leader Mike Bird said: "We had one expression of interest from a commercial operator but it has not been possible to pursue it as the council has strict controls of car boot sales allowing them only in certain circumstances."

LSD Promotions ended the market in June after blaming a lack of traders and customers. In the long-term a new square is being created as part of the neighbouring Tesco revamp.

This could host special markets but will not be complete until 2013. There had been hopes a monthly car boot sale would encourage shoppers into Brownhills.

Glyn on track with new book

A MARATHON athlete from Willenhall is gearing up to write his second book – just weeks after publishing his first.

Glyn Marston is following his debut autobiography Thud, Sweat and Tears with the tale of what he got up to after a knee injury ended his running career.

A 1,600-mile bike ride across Europe for charity will be recalled.

Mr Marston, aged 48, of New Invention, said: "It promises to be a great read."

Theatre group seeks actors

A THEATRE school in Walsall is looking for children and adults to join its group.

Spit Spot Theatre Academy runs classes for children from five, and adults, on Wednesdays at Daw End Methodist church hall, Rushall.

The new term begins on September 14 and anyone interested should email info@spitspottheatre.co.uk or call Jennifer Smith on 01922 640258.

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Solution is possible for stallholder

I WONDER what the full story is behind Walsall Council's decision to bar the trader featured in the Chronicle on August 25.

The picture would seem to suggest that there is no obstruction to visibility to the Body Shop, and they say that they have no issue.

To bar a trader after 47 years, particularly in the light of the above, does seem a bit harsh.

Curious decisions are often made, but I would have thought that Walsall Council, with declining occupancies in the market, could have come up with a compromise.

As a last resort, why not offer Mr Summer a site away from the occupied shops which is not likely to cause the sort of problems about which they seem so concerned?

There is more to this than meets the eye

Terry Louther
Beechdale
Walsall

DO YOU have something to say?
Email: walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk or write to Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Letters are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited. Letters and emails must include a full name, address and contact number.



A pavement obstructed in Walsall after the dustbins have been emptied.

Picture by reader Arjun Chand

Thoughtless binmen blocking our pavements after collection rounds

WHEN residents bring out refuse bins to be emptied by Walsall Council, they ensure they bins don't cause obstruction for pedestrians.

Why is it when refuse collectors empty the bins into their truck, they just leave them in the middle of the public footpath in the Caldmore, Palfrey and Alumwell areas of Walsall?

Residents have come to our Caldmore Residents' and New Caldmore NW meetings to complain about this

problem and say that they are fed up.

The dustmen need to put the bins back where the residents had put the bins in the first place - close to their houses and bungalows and not in the middle of footpaths.

As some residents go to work, they leave the bins out in the early morning and not come home until 5-6pm. So some bins can be there most of the day until evening.

This causes problems as when the bins are left in the middle of the foot-

paths, wheelchair, mobility scooter users, parents with prams and the blind will have to go in the road to pass by the bins.

In Caldmore, it is a problem in Bath Road, Brace Street, Hart Street, White Street and Mount Road.

It is not all refuse collectors, just some. Walsall Council, can you ensure that bins don't cause an obstruction?

Arjun Chand
Alumwell

I VISITED the lido and skate park at Walsall Arboretum with my grand-son.

Alady asked where a toilet was as they were all locked and she was desperate.

I pointed to the children's toilets and when she came back she said how dirty they were. I wondered if the councillors have ever been?

R Webster
Walsall

Nothing so glorious about a massacre of our wildlife

THE Wildlife and Countryside Act is now in its 30th year. Despite its admirable intentions, poisoning, trapping and shooting of birds of prey continue to occur with depressing regularity.

The number of prosecutions is not keeping pace with these incidents because they are a problem to detect and prosecutions are themselves notoriously difficult to obtain.

Animal Aid has written to Defra minister Jim Paice urging him to follow the Scottish government's lead of introducing a Criminal Vicarious Liability law. This makes landowners, employers and

all who commission or allow the persecution of wildlife, accountable under the Act.

The Animal Aid letter to Mr Paice was sent as the so-called Glorious Twelfth marked the start of the grouse shooting season.

It served to emphasise the link between the deliberate illegal persecution of birds of prey and what many of us regard as a morally repugnant grouse shooting industry.

Andrew Tyler
Director
Animal Aid
Tonbridge

Children's park looks a disgrace

Horse riders show lack of respect too

IN THE past, the horse riding lobby has been very vociferous about the lack of courtesy and consideration given to them by other road users. Despite their claims, this is not one-sided.

Many is the time when I and other road users have slowed down and passed wide round them without a single acknowledgement, a thankyou, or even a smile.

The latest example of their lack of consideration for others was obvious in our road recently where there is horse manure on our pavement at both ends of our road. This is despite the fact that riding on the pavement is illegal.

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Walsall offers Brum site for new market

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BIRMINGHAM Wholesale Market has been offered a home – an enterprise zone being created in Darlaston.

Walsall Council bosses say they are ready for talks with the city about relocation to the IMI James Bridge site.

The future of the massive wholesale market, which is used by hundreds of traders across the Midlands, has been thrown into doubt since a planned move to Witton was deemed too costly by Birmingham City Council.

Council chiefs in Walsall are now ready to step in following fears that some stallholders would have to travel as far as Manchester for fresh produce.

Expensive

Council leader Mike Bird said being close to the M6 would make the Darlaston enterprise zone a viable option. "I don't think there is a better site," he said.

"We are happy to open dialogue between officers and if they have got another site identified this is an alternative we could offer."

"It is not many miles away and we have got a site we believe is ideally suited."

There are 94 businesses at the city market and 1,100 people work there, plus many seasonal and casual staff.

The city council is seeking a private sector organisation to locate and develop a new home by 2013. Officers say staying at the current site of more than 35 years is "not an option" as it is no longer fit for purpose and requires expensive work to stay safe.

Orders to tidy up mess

ORDERS to clean up eyesore sites in Walsall have been issued by council chiefs six times in the last 12 months. Amenity notices were served on landowners to force them to tidy up overgrown and graffiti ridden areas.



Allotment holders Sohan Singh, Lisa Akins and Graham Parker have vowed to beat the thieves

Thieves target growers

ALLOTMENT holders in Walsall have launched a fundraising drive to improve security measures, after thieves plundered sheds and an on-site shop.

Gardeners at Borneo Street allotments, The Butts, have been forced to replace their wooden shop with a secure metal structure after thieves stole its entire contents.

It comes after thieves broke into Slater's Lane allotments, in Pleck, and stripped fruits from the trees.

Replace

Defiant plot owners at the Borneo Street site are now on the fundraising trail to boost security and replace stolen tools. On Saturday, the group held a Summer Fundraiser at Rushall Labour Club.

Allotment committee treasurer Lisa Akins said: "We've had people getting on to the site, stealing produce, breaking into peoples' sheds and stealing."

Allotment holders need cash to boost security with CCTV and other measures.

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Ron, 86, still working hard

THE oldest leather worker in Walsall has celebrated his 86th birthday and says he has no plans to retire.

Ron Hawkins has spent more than seven decades in the leather trade and now works as a tour guide at Walsall Leather Museum, in Littleton Street West.

Widowed father-of-two Mr Hawkins, of St Thomas Close, said he has no plans to quit, being in "perfect" health.

He said: "I've been in the leather trade for 72 years, I wouldn't know what to do with myself if I retired, and I'll be here until I can't do it any more."

Married

Mr Hawkins joined leather production company Holdens in 1939, aged just 14.

He spent five years in the RAF during the Second World War, married his wife, Muriel, then returned to work at Holdens.

The company moved to Scotland in the 1950s, but Mr Hawkins wanted to stay in Walsall and went to work for JF Sedgewich Co, in Alumwell, until the leather museum opened in 1988.



Ron Hawkins, 86, with the skin from an anaconda snake which was given to the museum after it had been confiscated at Heathrow Airport

Traders in limbo on parking fees

New appeal for Gift Aid

PEOPLE donating goods to St Giles Walsall Hospice shops can give the charity an extra boost by signing up for Gift Aid.

Anyone who completes a Gift Aid form when they drop off items at a St Giles Walsall Hospice Shop will help the charity to claim an extra 25p from the Treasury for every £1 it receives through the sale of these goods.

Lynwen Truesdale, head of retail for St Giles Hospice, said: "Gift Aid is an incredibly quick and simple way for people to help us increase our income for the benefit of local people in need at no cost whatsoever to themselves."

Walsall Hospice Shops are now known as St Giles Walsall Hospice Shops following the merger of the charity with St Giles Hospice.

TRADEERS say they are being left in limbo over proposals to ease parking fees in a Walsall town centre street.

Ablewell Street is one of 17 roads in the town where pay-and-display meters were introduced in March.

Businesses have complained that the changes are driving passing trade away,

and an idea there could be a 30-minute amnesty from the charges is now in doubt.

Shamim Khan, who runs newsagent News & Booze in

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Ablewell Street said traders in the road feel "in limbo" over the plans. He said: "We don't know what's happening at all now. Business is hard as it is, we don't need something like this driving people away or hanging over us."

Walsall Council is expecting to raise £100,000 from the pay-and-display machines throughout 2011/12. It is believed 10 per cent of this income will be generated from Ablewell Street alone.

A petition asking for 30 minutes of free parking was brought before council bosses in June, but a report into the cost of the measure in July dashed the hopes of traders who wanted a half-hour reprieve.

Leader of the council Mike Bird said: "Our initial inquiries show that people are using the machines for short stay. The traders are saying they are losing business, we are saying they are not."

He added that a full report would go before the cabinet in September.

Derelict site to be converted into retail units

A MINI-RETAIL complex is to be created in place of an empty building in Aldridge in a bid to draw shoppers to the town. The derelict property in High Street is to be converted into up four smaller units to attract businesses.

The 4,079 sqft building had previously been used for retail purposes and as an art gallery. Moves to revive the site, near to

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Bakers Lane, were lodged with Walsall Council planners by Group 3 Technology Ltd and have now been passed by officers.

The unit space will now be split to create more contemporary and smaller hubs.

Head of planning David Elsworth said: "The Black Country Centres study of 2009 states there is a need for larger retail units."

"Given that the existing building is redundant it is considered this opportunity to re-invest and modernise the units should be supported. The proposed new shop fronts would visually enhance the character and appearance of the unit, whilst providing direct access on to High Street."

"The site is within Aldridge district centre where there are a number of bus services to and from the district centre to surrounding residential areas."

Merit

David Tranter, of agent Geoff Perry Associates, said in a statement: "The site was previously occupied by general stores/art gallery and since vacated is currently redundant providing no social merit with the vicinity."

"Therein lies the opportunity to revitalise the area and bring a sense of aesthetic appeal and economic growth for local residents and businesses."

The plans were passed by council officers under delegated powers.

Rob Payton, contracts manager of Jessup Build Develop, and Lawrence Stainsby, contracts director of Traditional Structures, at Waterfront South, Walsall

STEEL construction company Traditional Structures is completing structural work for the second phase of developer Jessup's Waterfront South, a £65 million canalside regeneration project at Walsall.

The Cheslyn Hay firm is benefiting from Jessup's

Firm shows its metal



Rob Payton, contracts manager of Jessup Build Develop, and Lawrence Stainsby, contracts director of Traditional Structures, at Waterfront South, Walsall

policy which shows support for local contractors and suppliers.

Phil Hadley, managing director of Traditional Structures, said: "It has been particularly satisfying working with a developer who believes in supporting local companies and skills."

The plans were passed by council officers under delegated powers.

Vodka row with pal led to assault

A WALSALL woman attacked a friend over a "misunderstanding", a court heard. Mary Taylor, aged 27, lashed out at neighbour Zoe May, to whom she is related by marriage.

Mr Jason Corden-Bowen, prosecuting, said the argument was "somewhat convoluted", and began over a bottle of vodka at the victim's address.

Taylor left with her family, and then returned after realising a young family member had been left behind.

Punched

"They are initially chattering amicably, and the allegation is that Taylor then assaults the injured party."

"She falls backwards and as she falls she grabs hold of the defendant's hair, and they fall to the floor."

Taylor, of Poplar Close, Bentley, then punched Ms May in the head.

She admitted common assault at Walsall Magistrates Court. District Judge Michael Morris ordered her to pay a £120 fine, £150 compensation to Zoe May, £85 costs and a £15 surcharge.

Learn how to paint portraits

BUDGING artists can try their hand at creating their own Mona Lisa with a portraiture workshop at Walsall's Leatherhead Museum.

Artist Malcolm Malan will show how to create shape, proportion and tone to add personality. The class will be held on September 17 from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Tickets are £12.50 including materials. Call 01922 721153 for details.

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 (frm sept)
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 THU: 8.00-9.00 STAN BALL CENTRE, Abbotts Street, Bloxwich WS3 3AZ
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Unloved 60s relic Overstrand goes

THE blot on Walsall's landscape that was the Overstrand has been banished to oblivion.

The structure was pulled down to leave an unobstructed view of St Matthew's Church from High Street.

Shoppers and passers-by gathered last week to watch the final moments of the former restaurant and music venue as a three-week programme of works culminated in the redundant building disappearing.

About 60 tons of concrete was pulled apart while more than 500 litres of water was hosed in by workmen to control the rising dust.

Bernard Bird, aged 71, of Deepmore Avenue, Birchills, watched as the



The Overstrand's 60 tons of concrete is demolished

Care home for old power site

A FORMER substation site will be transformed into a 28-bed care complex under plans sent to Walsall Council.

Developer Gelder & Kitchen aims to demolish the existing building in Lichfield Road, Bloxwich, and construct single and two-storey buildings.

The complex is designed to promote rehabilitation with self-contained and independent accommodation, and is aimed to be an "exemplar development" for

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people with certain health problems who need residential care.

Units of accommodation would be clustered around a care unit containing a "bistro" dining area, a communal lounge, therapy space, offices and meeting rooms.

It would be registered as a residential care home, while some of the units would be registered as an independent hospital, to allow

patients to be admitted directly from other units.

Tony Entwistle, for agency Fed 3 Projects, said in the application: "The development can only have a positive impact on local businesses."

"It is hoped that investment in the area in these services will promote further investment."

"The bespoke packages of care enable people to live a more independent life with support when required to try and help them back into society."

Thefts alert for drivers

MOTORISTS in Walsall are being encouraged to keep cars in a garage where possible to stop them becoming a target for thieves.

There have been a spate of number plate thefts from across the borough with more than 100 in the last three months. There have also been catalytic converters taken from vans. These are stolen because of the high value of the precious metals they contain. Officers are now urging people to park in a secure area.

Pc Mark Ledo, the crime prevention officer for police at Walsall, said: "We would like to encourage drivers to take proper care of their vehicles and contents."

Locals who see anyone acting suspiciously should call police on 0345 113 5000.

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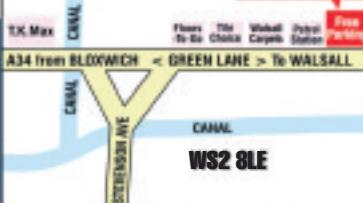
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Attack on police car admitted

A WALSALL man threw a stone which broke the window of a police car and struck an officer, a court heard.

Garraham Marsh, of Derby Street, Birchills, admitted criminal damage and assaulting a police officer when he appeared before Walsall magistrates last week.

The court heard that 21-year-old Marsh had been with another man when he threw the stone in the direction of the police car in Littleton Street on August 13.

Cuts

It caused £200 damage by smashing a car window and hit an officer who suffered cuts to his forearm and a sore head, the court heard. Marsh also pleaded guilty to dropping litter after he was seen to discard a sandwich wrapper.

Mrs Sarb Sehmi, defending, told the court that Marsh had been collecting stones in the area and a stone flew out of his hand when he threw away the sandwich wrapper.

The hearing was adjourned for reports to be drawn up. Marsh was given conditional bail and was due to be sentenced this week.

Charity seeks bag packers

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help with bag-packing in a Walsall store today and on Saturday (September 8 and 10) in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice.

The charity is hoping to get a team of volunteers set up in Marks & Spencer Walsall. Anyone interested can call Amanda Cox on 01922 422508.

Cleared site is now a hotspot for fly-tipping

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

THE site of a former community centre has become a fly-tipping hotspot following the demolition of the building. Roapp Hall in Darlaston became a magnet for drug users and vandals when it closed several years ago.

New owners came in to take over the site in Dorset Road, and have completed the last stages of demolition. But while household-

ers were blighted by anti-social behaviour when the building was still standing, now they are suffering the effects of people dumping piles of rubbish on the land.

Darlaston Councillor Paul Bott said temporary fencing round the site had been ripped down and black bags full of waste were being routinely dumped there.

He said: "It's getting really untidy again some of the security fencing has been broken down, and it's overgrown."

"Residents are concerned that they may have got rid of anti-social behaviour just to create another problem with fly-tipping."

He added: "They feel like they are back to square one. They desperately need some plans as to what is going to be done with the site."

Properties

"Some people are trying to sell their properties in that vicinity. But anyone coming to see a one might just walk away from it if they see what's there."

The owners plan to build a residential rehabilitation centre for spinal injury patients on the site. It would be the first centre of its kind in the West Midlands.

Plans were approved by Walsall Council planning officers earlier this year, but nothing has been done with the land since the demolition of the old centre in April.

Councillor Bott added: "The poor residents have to put up with it until a permanent fence is erected."



The waste land in Dorset Road hit by fly-tippers

New gates installed

GATES costing £9,000 have been installed in alleys in Great Barr to combat anti-social behaviour.

The seven lockable gates have been put in Jayshaw Avenue, Gorse Farm Road and Langford Avenue to stop troublemakers getting to the back of houses. Residents

have been calling for extra security for the past 15 years.

Sandwell Councillor Dave Hosell welcomed the new gates, but said other people were now asking for them.

The residents are pretty chuffed. The problem is, everyone wants them now."

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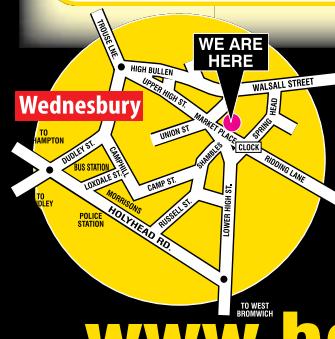
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Hatherton residents and ramblers vent their feelings about a 220ft wind turbine planned for their neighbourhood

Gale of protest over 'huge' wind turbine

RESIDENTS and councillors across Aldridge, Hatherton and Rushall have joined forces to oppose plans for a 'huge' wind turbine next to the Rushall Canal at Riddians Bridge.

The turbine will be mounted on a 131ft (40m) mast will be driven by a ft (57m) diameter rotor. The top of the rotor will be 220ft (67m) above ground level.

walsallchronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

Park Lime Pits to preserve nature and wildlife.

Members of HRAWT have been collecting signatures on petitions to oppose the plans on the grounds of:

- Severe visual impact on one of Walsall's few attractive rural locations
- Significant noise pollution
- Out of character for the area
- Impact on environment – moving blades are known to kill and maim birdlife.

The group plans to hand the petition to Walsall Council after the consultation period has closed.

Walsall's Ramblers Association has given its backing to the protest.

Birdlife

"Plans to cover Britain with wind farms are being thwarted by a growing tide of public opposition."

"We will do everything possible to stop this development in our area of natural beauty where Walsall Council and volunteers have spent substantial amount of money restoring



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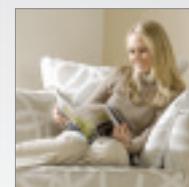
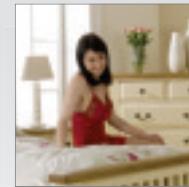
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Hotel's holiday site fun

FAMILIES enjoyed old-fashioned holiday camp fun at an event in Walsall.

Organisers of the summer spectacular recreated a holiday camp feel at the Park Inn Hotel, Bescot Crescent.

Stalls were set up and children's entertainment provided. Lily Allen tribute act Jenny Whittingham, of Wolverhampton, was also at the event.

The event was also to raise awareness of three charities – the Edwards Trust which helps people cope with bereavement; children's charity Chicks; and the Teenage Cancer Trust.



Lily Allen tribute act Jenny Whittingham with vocalist and organiser Stacey Price

Firm is taking on GP hotline

THE out-of-hours GP service in Walsall was being taken over by a specialist Birmingham-based provider. Waldo lost the contract to provide the service after more than a decade in the town.

Up to 40 Waldo staff were expected to transfer to new providers Badger. The firm currently operates in Birmingham, Solihull and South Staffordshire, and was believed to be a frontrunner when it emerged the contract with Walsall NHS was going out to tender.

The service continues to be run from a base at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Patients can also use treatment centres at Cannock or at Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, if it is

more convenient. Dr Fay Wilson, Badger's medical director, said: "We are all looking forward to working with NHS Walsall."

"The new service from Badger will mean local people will have more choice of appropriate alternatives for urgent problems, day or night, 365 days a year."

Established

Badger has grown since it was established in 1996 and now deals with more than 200,000 calls and 1.5 million patients annually.

The care service is for patients who need help when their own GP surgery is closed. It is available between 6.30pm and 8am, Monday to Friday, or any time on weekends and bank holidays. It is available on

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Thursday 1 September	9.30am to 7.30pm		•	•	•
Friday 2 September	9.30am to 4.00pm	•	•	•	•
Saturday 3 September	9.30am to 2.00pm	•	•	•	•
Monday 5 September	9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•
Tuesday 6 September	9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•
Wednesday 7 September	9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•
Thursday 8 September	9.30am to 7.30pm	•	•	•	•
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thechronicle

Group set to launch community scheme

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

LESSONS to keep children safe on the streets, teach them to take care of their neighbours and respect other people's property are on the timetable in Walsall.

Walsall Housing Group has awarded £2,550 from its Local Neighbourhood Fund to Rushall, Shelfield and Pelsall Neighbourhood Watch to expand its Junior Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Leading Midlands housing provider WHG set up the fund to support worthy community projects within the borough.

Linda Lister, estates service manager, said: "Junior Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent way to encourage youngsters to be responsible members of the community and to stay safe too. At WHG, we aim to strengthen local communities and create great neighbourhoods."

Workshops

More than 310 pupils attending primary schools will take part in the project during the 2011-12 academic year. They will attend a series of workshops which use art, drama, IT and games to learn:

- How to protect their own property from theft and criminal damage
- How to be safe in the community and look after the elderly, protecting them from bogus callers
- Responsibility and the consequences of committing a crime
- What to do if they witness an incident and who they should tell.

Project co-ordinator Michael Styles, of Walsall Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association, said: "The scheme works to instill a sense of responsibility and respect in young people towards their peers, older generations and property that can be missing in today's society."

Artist in the frame with class

A WALSHALL artist will be giving a water-colour masterclass in his home town this Saturday, September 10. Cameron Galt will lead a session at The New Art Gallery from 11am to 1.30pm, followed by a talk at 3.30pm. Call 01922 654400 to book.

Youngsters show their skills



Steve Binns of Coachright, with Mitchell Magher, Gary Woodcock, Bradley Lowe, Jack Martin, Aaron Rofe, and James Martin

Youngsters from Wednesbury and Walsall have played their part in a football competition organised as part of a scheme launched by the Prime Minister.

Almost 70 youngsters took part in the event which was run by teenagers from Sandwell's Yew Tree estate. The youths arranged the tournament for their National Citizenship Service qualification.

Steve Binns, from the firm Coachright, which works in schools

and communities to deliver sports programmes, said: "It was a fantastic day and it gave the guys who organised the event to show what they have learned."

The event took place at Pulse Soccer and Fitness on Friar Park Road, Wednesbury and was partly funded by West Midlands Police.

The under-12 and under-14 sections were won by West Bromwich Jnr's, while Friar Park Allstars won the under-16 contest.

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The shoe must go on at youth theatre



Natalie Webster, 17, and Alex Fisher, 19, are due to appear in Hobson's Choice at Aldridge Youth Theatre

Latest offering is the tale of cobbler and his daughters

walsallchronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

A MUCH-LOVED play about a cobbler and his daughters is being staged at Aldridge Youth Theatre.

Aspiring actors Natalie Webster, aged 17, and Alex Fisher, 19, take the lead roles of Maggie and Henry in Hobson's Choice, adapted from a 1914 play by Harold Brighouse. The title was taken from the popular expression, meaning no choice at all.

Matinee

The story is set in Salford in 1880, has strains of the fairy tale Cinderella, and charts the lives of a father and his level-headed daughter.

It has been adapted for the screen many times and also as a Broadway musical.

The show will run from September 22 to 24 at 7.30pm at the theatre in Noddy Park Road, Aldridge. There will be an additional matinee at 2.30pm on the Saturday.

Tickets cost £6 to £7 and are available on 01922 458615.

Aldridge Youth Theatre is celebrating 50 years since it was set up in an old school in neighbouring Rushall.

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Ragwort growing alongside Aldridge Canal, by Andrew Blakemore

Photographs this week from Philip Gormley, of Bloxwich, Ray Brindle, of Willenhall, Andrew Blakemore, of Aldridge, and Derek Taylor, of Pelsall



Morning mist, Pelsall North Common, by Philip Gormley



Derek Taylor snapped St Michael & All Angels Church, Pelsall, undergoing renovation



Storm clouds gather over an Aldridge field, by Andrew Blakemore

Pictures of life in the borough

ARE you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or a diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures? If you can, why not share your snaps of the borough?

There is no limit on the age or the subject – all we ask is that photos be as sharp and clear as possible and of reasonable quality for publication, featuring some area or aspect of Walsall and its life.

Send photos in with your name, address and contact number and a brief description of what the picture shows.

We would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we'll do the rest. So get those cameras snapping, dig out those dusty old albums and email them to walsallchronicle@express-sandstar.co.uk or send them by post to Snappers Claim to Frame, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



Ray Brindle's close-up of a damsel fly

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Crematorium to get extra parking spaces



Charlotte Askew as Peter Pan and Ian Askew as Captain Hook with the cast of Pelsall Musical Society

Peter Pan forever young

A WALSLASS theatre group will bring a popular fairytale to life at a community showcase on Saturday.

Pelsall Musical Society performs Peter Pan as part of Pelsall Creative Showcase, which runs from 10am to 2pm at the Methodist church in Chapel Street, celebrating the creativity

and talents of villagers and will also include knitting, art, dance and cooking.

The society will perform sketches from their adaptation of the JM Barrie classic.

Showcase organiser Vickie Heydon-Matterface said: "We want people to join us for what promises to be a fun event."

MOVES to create extra visitor parking spaces at Streetly Crematorium as part of £1 million improvements will start before the end of the year. A 21-space permanent car park has been earmarked after complaints that motorists ignore the double yellow lines and leave their vehicles on grass verges at the site.

The installation of three new cremators as part of the overall programme is due to be fully completed by the end of October. Once finished, work on the new car parking area will then begin.

The extra parking spaces off Little Hardwick Road, Streetley, will add to the 42 spaces and six bays on the site.

There is an average of 11 cremations a day and the cemetery is currently struggling to deal with demand, council officials said.

The temporary contractor's compound which has been set up during work at the cemetery will become the overflow area.

Progressing

Councillor Anthony Harris, cabinet member for bereavement services, said: "Work is progressing well on installation of new cremators."

"Planning permission has also been granted to convert the contractor's temporary works base into additional car parking for 20 cars and this work will take place once the installation of the cremators has been completed."

Barby for teens

A BARBECUE for teenagers will be held in Walsall Wood tomorrow evening, September 9. It takes place at Oak Park, off Lichfield Road, from 6.30pm, organised by Aldridge and Beacon Area Partnership team for 14 to 19-year-olds.

Groups can display grit this winter

COMMUNITY groups could get involved in using grit to clear away snow from treacherous parts of Walsall.

Council chiefs are looking at a number of options including shopkeepers helping to treat shopping centres.

Initial talks have been held with some traders about the plans, with possible trials in areas such as New Invention and Pelsall.

Highways bosses are considering several options, including shopkeepers helping to treat ice and snow in the borough's shopping centres.

Man accused of touching girl

A WALSLASS man has appeared in court after being charged with sexually touching a girl under 13.

Alan Millward, of Highgate Road, is alleged to have committed the offence last month. The 55-year-old was at Walsall Magistrates via video link. It was adjourned to September 30 and Millward was held in custody.

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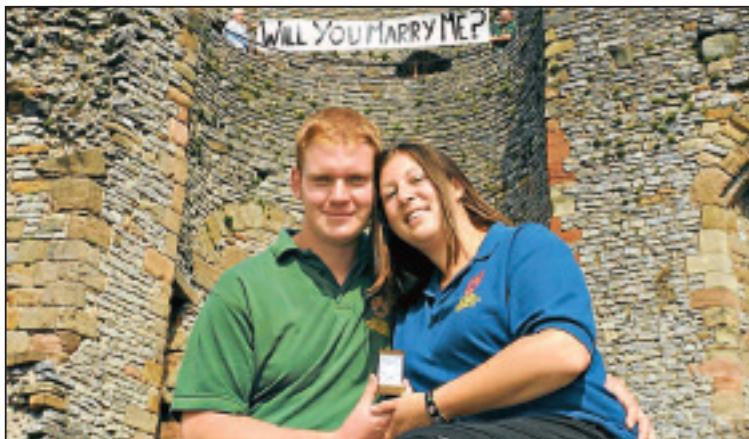
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Fairy tale proposal made by keeper at zoo



Adam Walker after proposing to Caroline Parsons at Dudley Zoo and Castle

A Dudley Zoo keeper went for the big gesture when proposing to his girlfriend – using a huge banner hung on the castle.

Adam Walker, aged 28, swore colleagues to secrecy when he planned his proposal to Caroline Parsons.

Mr Walker, who works with big cats at the zoo, made a 30ft banner bearing the words "Will you marry me?" and asked chief executive Peter Suddock and assistant curator Richard Brown to help him wrap it around the walls.

Surprised

He then took his future wife, a former zoo education presenter, into the castle courtyard to show her his handiwork – and was delighted when she said yes.

He said: "I'd been planning it for quite a while."

Miss Parsons, 28, a science teacher at St Thomas More School, Willenhall, said: "I was just so surprised. It was amazing."

The couple, who live in Russells Hall Road, Dudley, have set the date for their big day next August.

Students will fly high at new £77m college

STUDENTS at the new £77 million Sandwell College will be flying high when they take lessons on board the body of a real aeroplane at the West Bromwich site.

Travel and tourism students will see their classroom on the fourth floor of the building transformed for lessons inside the body of a former Boeing 737. The fuselage is being installed, and students will use the drop-down tables as desks for their laptops. The structure also has escape-route floor-lighting strips, overhead lockers and seats.

Outside the fuselage, there will be a waiting area, check-in desk, galley area and trolley storage, so students have a realistic experience as air cabin crew.

Graphics on the waiting area walls will show a typical runway scene and aircraft parking bay, resembling a real airport.

The materials have been taken from a decommissioned aircraft.

Sandwell College capital project direc-

tor Sue Johnson said it was intended to make the experience as authentic as possible for students preparing for a career in the travel industry.

She said: "The parts would normally be refurbished and sold on to other airlines but in this instance they will be fully refurbished and installed at the college.

"The fuselage body will come with all of the equipment that a normal plane would have."

Big Dipper

Along with travel and tourism, the fourth floor will be home to the sport and leisure and public services departments, science labs, and a Microsoft Academy area.

Work on the building in Spofforth Lane is nearing completion. Sandwell folk have dubbed it the 'Big Dipper' due to the building's curved shape.

Construction teams have been working on the interior and getting classrooms ready for staff.



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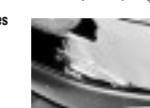


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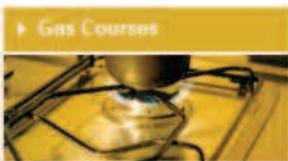
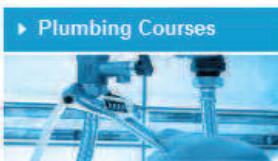


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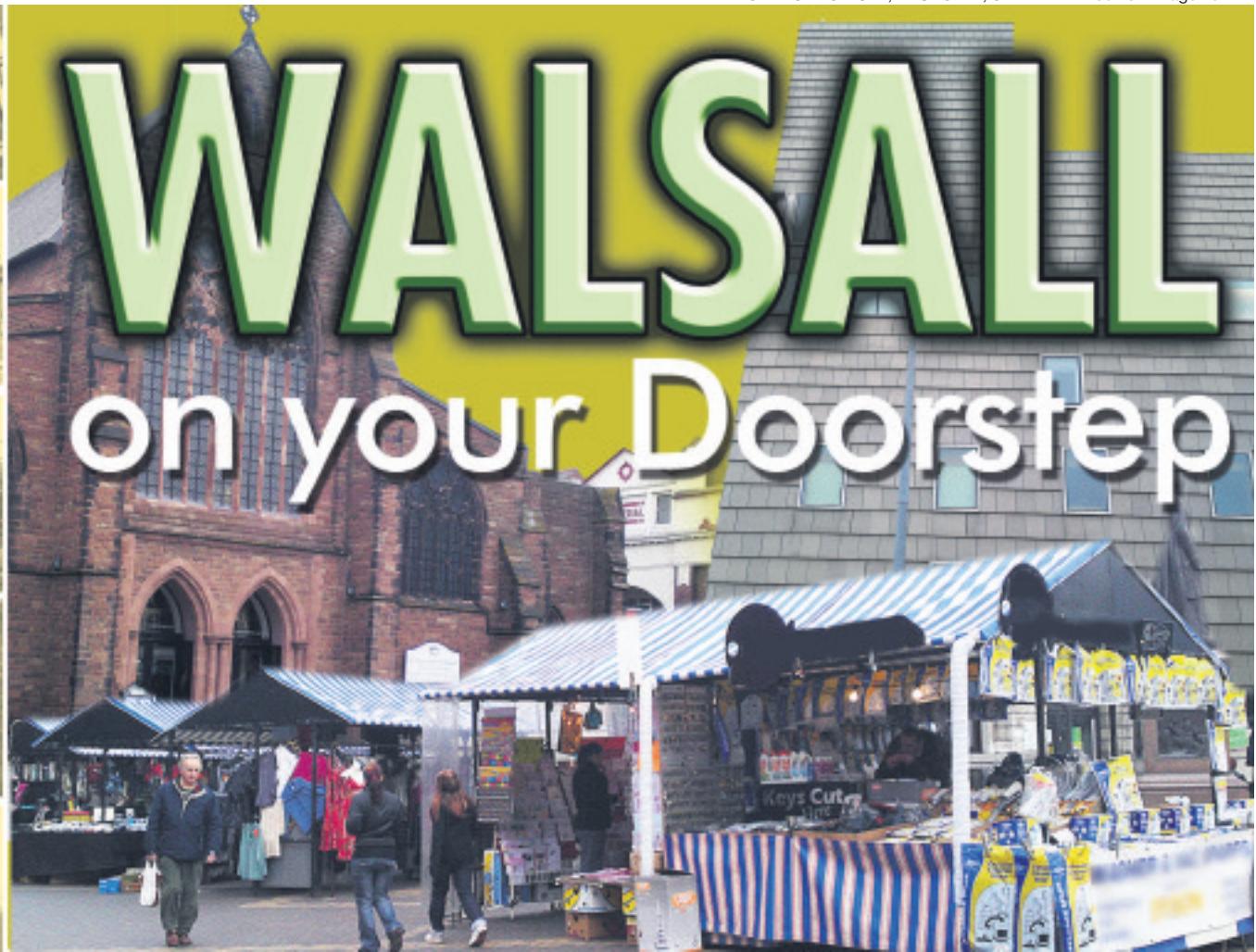
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Courses & Activities for Adults

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* Courses leading to a qualification

Monday

Luncheon Club for the Elderly 10.00-1.30pm
Including, crafts activities, gentle exercise, and guest speakers.

Cost £2.50 per week (transport and meal cost extra)

Trips organized throughout the year.

Indoor Bowls 10.00 - 12.00pm

Floristry/Flower Arranging 7.00-9.00pm

10 week term (20 hours)

*Manual Accounts 7.00-9.00pm

18 weeks (36 hours)

*Computerised Accounts (Using Sage).....7.00-9.00pm

18 weeks (36 hours)

Tuesday

Discover your Family History 1.00-3.00pm

10 week term (20 hours)

Play Guitar 7.00-9.00pm

10 week term (20 hours)

Wednesday

IT for the Over 50's..... 10.00-12.00pm

10 week term (20 hours)

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10 week term (20 hours)

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Thursday

*Adult Numeracy 1.00-3.00pm

Indoor Bowls 10.00-12.00pm

Arthritis Care Group

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Friday

Luncheon Club for the Elderly 10.00-1.30pm

Including , crafts activities, gentle exercise, and guest speakers.

Cost £2.50 per week (transport and meal cost extra)

Trips organized throughout the year.

Short Courses running throughout the year

*Basic First Aid (Wed 9th November 2011) 9.00-4.30pm

*Basic First Aid (Wed 2nd March 2012).....9.00-4.30pm

*Basic Food Hygiene (Sat 5th Nov 2011)....9.00-4.30pm

*Basic Food Hygiene (Sat 11th March 2012)9.00-4.30pm

Cost £50 per person per courses

Over 55's Social Events - Various days and times

Programme of events to be published throughout the year to include: Tea Dances, Speakers, Keep Fit,

Bingo, Organised Trips

Courses & Activities for Adults & Young people

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What can we offer?

Courses in Plastering, Plumbing, Brickwork, Floor and Wall Tiling

Who are the courses suitable for?

Our non-accredited courses have been designed for people with little or no experience in any of the mentioned trades, so anyone can participate.

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Tutors will be available 10am to 12pm for any in depth course information
Enquiries outside of this time can be made at any time at our other centres.

Can I achieve a nationally recognised qualification?

Our accredited courses are for those wishing to gain a nationally recognised qualification in the areas of Plastering and Brickwork or Multi-skill award through the Construction Awards Alliance or City & Guilds.

When are the courses available?

The delivery of our courses are intended to meet the needs of everyone and are flexible for those wanting daytime, evening or weekend training opportunities.

* Courses leading to a qualification

Courses for Young People (16-18yrs)

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*CAA Level 1 Diploma in Plastering

Thursday & Friday 9.00am-4.30pm

Neet 2 Build Foundation Learning Programme

*6218-01 City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in basic

Construction Skills (Includes Brickwork & plumbing modules) Thursday 9.00am-4.30pm

*Functional Skills in Maths, English, ICT

Wednesday 9.00am-12.30pm

*Entry Level Award in Employability

Wednesday 1.00 pm-3.30pm

Courses for Adults

Plastering

*CAA Level 1 Diploma in Plastering Wednesday

9.00am-4.30pm

*CAA Level 1 Diploma in Plastering Wednesday &

Thursday 6.00pm-9.30pm

Brickwork

*CAA Level 1 Diploma in Brickwork

Saturday 9.00am-4.30pm

*CAA Level 2 Diploma in Brickwork

Saturday 9.00am-4.30pm

Also available 10 week courses throughout the year

*6218-01 City & Guilds Introductory Award in basic

Construction Skills

Plumbing modules

Saturday & Tuesday Sat 9am-1pm & Tue 6pm-9pm

Also available 7 week courses throughout the year

*6218-01 City & Guilds Introductory Award in basic

Construction Skills

Plumbing modules Monday & Tuesday 9.00am-3.30pm

7 week non-qualification courses throughout the year

*6218-01 City & Guilds Introductory Award in basic

Construction Skills

Plumbing for beginners Wednesday 6.30pm-9.30pm

Plastering for beginners Wednesday 6.30pm-9.30pm

Brickwork for beginners Wednesday 6.30pm-9.30pm

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Plumbing for Improvers Thursday 6.30pm-9.30pm

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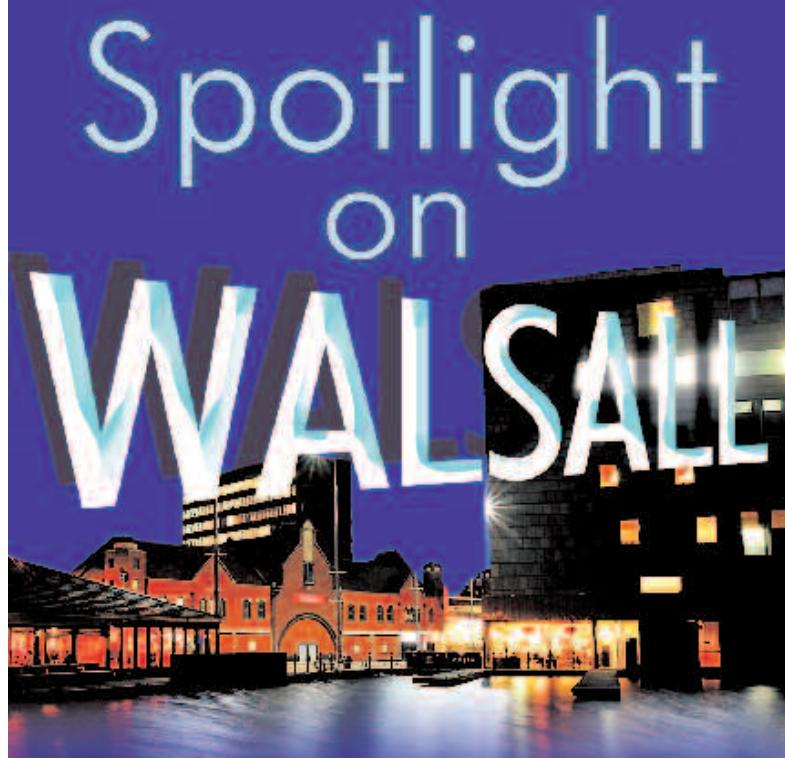
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Extensive garden is key element of semi's attraction

HO USE HUNTERS seeking a home with a large garden in a Willenhall cul-de-sac can look no further than this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Hodson Avenue.

On the market for offers around £105,000 through Fraser Wood estate agents, the house off Birmingham Street is close to schools and local amenities and has gas fired central heating, uPVC double glazing, two reception rooms and detached garage.

A wooden entrance door opens into a reception hallway with wood laminate flooring and doors leading off to two reception rooms.

walsallchronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

The 10ft 5in x 12ft 5in front-facing lounge has a uPVC double-glazed walk-in bay window, laminate flooring and a gas fire set in a surround.

Panelled

In the rear-facing breakfast room, there are doors leading to the rear garden, kitchen and an understairs storage area.

In the 5ft 11in x 11ft 1in kitchen of the property, there's an inset sink, base and wall units and a gas cooker 367367.

Upstairs, there are three bedrooms. The main bedroom measures 10ft 10in x 10ft 7in.

A tiled bathroom has a suite that comprises a WC, pedestal wash basin and panelled bath.

On the exterior, the house is set back from the road behind a wall and concrete driveway providing off-road parking.

There's a detached garage that measures 7ft 1in x 16ft 6in with double opening doors.

To the rear, there's a large lawned garden with a patio area.

For more information or to arrange a viewing of the property, contact the Willenhall branch of selling agents Fraser Wood by telephoning 01902



On the market for offers around £105,000 through Fraser Wood estate agents, the house is close to amenities

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● Rear garden ● Garage
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YOU can protect your home yourself, providing you have basic DIY skills.

Homebase has come up with a guide that shows you how to keep your home safe and secure by fitting an alarm, security lighting, CCTV and strong locks for your external doors.

None of the tasks are particularly difficult but some electrical and carpentry skills are required at times. Remember, always use the manufacturer's instructions when fitting any new security equipment.

1. Alarms

Before buying an alarm you need to work out what features are necessary for your home. Systems are either wired or wireless. Wired ones can be a bit tricky to install as you will need to run wires from each detector all the way back to the central control unit.

Both types usually use a number of detectors that either sense movement or are triggered by breaking a magnetic contact i.e. when someone opens a door/window.

Break-contact detectors protect the vulnerable points such as the back and front doors and ground floor windows. Work out how many you will need.

PIR sensors are triggered by body heat and movement. They are good for covering large areas inside your home but not usually suitable for entry points as they may be set off by people or animals passing by.

Place sensors so the beam does not point at a window or heat sources these will set them off. Check the sensors cover a sufficient area for the room you want to protect.

Most control boxes need a mains power supply, with a back-up battery in case of power failure. Make sure the box is tamper proof so the alarm goes off if an intruder tries to interfere with it. Make sure the keypad is out of reach of small children.

The alarm box should be fitted to the front of the home or somewhere that is obvious to passers-by. It should be placed high up so that it can't be tampered with. If your home can also be reached from the rear, make sure you order a second alarm box.

2. CCTV (closed circuit TV)

For extra reassurance CCTV systems are easy to fit and do not need any special electrical connections. The simpler systems include one or two cameras and a controller that plugs directly into your TV via the scart socket.

More sophisticated ones let you record pictures from the cameras while you are out. If you are using CCTV

cameras in dark areas, or want clearer images after dark, outside security lighting is advised.

3. Installing CCTV cameras

Make sure you place cameras out of reach to stop intruders tampering with them and they have a clear view of access areas - away from overhanging trees or bushes.

Drill a small hole through your wall or window frame so that you can feed the camera cable inside your home. From inside, the extension cable needs to be connected to the camera cable. Run the cables back of your TV.

Plug the power adaptor for the camera control box into a 13amp socket. The scart plug then goes into the socket on the back of your television. When you are all connected up switch your TV to the AV channel to see the images from your camera. Check the camera view before finalising installation.

4. Security lighting

Generally, exterior security lighting can be divided into two types: dusk-to-dawn lighting and PIR lighting. Dusk-to-dawn units come on automatically as it gets dark and switch off again when it gets lighter at dawn.

PIR units are triggered by body heat, so only come on if someone approaches your home. These are usually the best option as they use less electricity and should surprise and scare off any potential intruder.

5. Fitting security lights

Put your lights at least 2.5m off the ground. For PIR lighting make sure you point them so that passers-by don't trigger them off. Don't put the light near your boiler's flue as this can also set them off.

Drill a hole through the wall to the inside - make sure you line any holes with a plastic conduit. If you want to avoid drilling you may be able to feed the cable through your window frame or fascia board.



Make sure you point lights so that passers-by do not trigger them off

Make sure you turn off your power supply when fitting lights, then connect them according to the maker's instructions. Once you've connected the light it can then be fixed to the wall.

If you've chosen PIR lighting you can set the sensitivity control and adjust the length of time the light stays on once triggered. A few minutes is usually enough to disturb any intruder without annoying your neighbours if it goes off accidentally.

6. Best locks for secure external doors

The best and strongest locks have a 'kite mark' and are passed to British Standard BS3621. Most household insurance companies insist on these and they are recommended by crime prevention officers.

As a rule, the more levers, pins or discs a lock has, the more difficult it is to pick.

When possible fit two locks on your front door - both to BS3621 standard. A mortice deadlock and a night latch. To protect your back door, go for a mortice sash lock to BS3621, together with top and bottom mortice bolts.

Words supplied by Homebase.

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Lot 3:	Former Children's Day Nursery, 61 Bacchus Road, Winsor Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 4:	Former Offices and Yard at Adams Street, Nechells, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 5:	268 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 6:	270 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 7:	Former Offices and Yard at Adams Street, Nechells, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 8:	The Former Calloway Elderly Persons Home, The Roundabout, Northfield, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 9:	Former Children's Home, 51 Heron Way, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 10:	Land at Elliott Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Land
Lot 11:	Former Children's Home, Highters Close, Maypole, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 12:	Site at Maypole Grove, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 13:	Former Children's Day Nursery, 5 Tennyson Road, St. John's Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 14:	Site at Shipton Road, Sheldon, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 15:	31 Abberline Street, Winsor Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
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Lot 18:	Land at Corner of John Street & Flash Road, Oldbury	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 19:	Land at Dudley Road, Rowley Regis	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 20:	Land off Grice Street (North), West Bromwich	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 21:	Land off Grice Street (South), West Bromwich, West Midlands	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 22:	Land at Richmond Street South & Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Development/Redevelopment
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Lot 30:	37 Gleave Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 31:	Hayes Court, 174 & 176A & 176A Hedgesford Road, Cannock	Commercial Investment
Lot 32:	Former Police Station, Birmingham Road, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant
Lot 33:	Rushwood, Bickenhill Lane, Marston Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 34:	69 Market Street, Walsall	Commercial Investment
Lot 35:	10 Union Street, Cannock	Residential Vacant
Lot 36:	Land at 10 Union Street, Cannock	Development/Redevelopment
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Lot 52:	The Old Tavell, 72 Tavell's Green, Road, Dudley	Commercial Vacant
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Lot 54:	123 Birchfield Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 55:	28 Hillside Avenue, Rowley Regis	Residential Investment
Lot 56:	56 Hadley Road, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 57:	44 Maxwell Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 58:	2-24 Brefford Road, Wood End, Coventry	Residential Vacant
Lot 59:	43 Hennetta Street, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 60:	208 Threaves Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 61:	144 Wathorne Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 62:	3 Calthorpe Road, Church Gresley	Residential Investment
Lot 63:	28 George Street, Riddings	Residential Investment
Lot 64:	6 Cromwell Street, Mansfield	Residential Investment
Lot 65:	Land at Church Street, Kidderminster	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 66:	16 Blanford Road, Quinton, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 67:	360 Mosley Road, Highgate, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 68:	68 Camberley, Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 69:	115 Camberley, Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 70:	204-206 Gravelly Hill, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 71:	2-2A Mill Street, Cannock	Commercial Investment
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Lot 73:	Land at Tamworth Road, Poolestock, Staffordshire	Land
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Lot 81:	29 Hunters Road, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 82:	100-102 St. Georges Street, Dudley	Commercial Vacant
Lot 83:	25 Melton Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa	Residential Vacant
Lot 84:	128 & 136A Yerlsey Road, Accles Green, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 85:	12 Yems Croft, Lichfield Road, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 86:	82 Palace Road, Bordesley Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 87:	13 Maidstone Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 88:	178 Hall Lane, Walsall Wood	Land
Lot 89:		

Lot 90:	Land at 42 Town Street, Sandiacre, Nottingham	Land
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Lot 93:	100-102 St. Georges Street, Dudley	Residential Investment
Lot 94:	14 Hillcrest View, Carlton, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 95:	21 Cavendish Road, Carlton, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 96:	48 Gladstone View, Carlton, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 97:	101 Stanley Road, Forest Fields, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 98:	2 Mason Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 99:	Land at 12A, Open Land in Rowley Regis	Land
Lot 100:	Land at 24K, Open Land in Rowley Regis	Land
Lot 101:	25 The Croftway, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 102:	37-39 Bloxwich Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 103:	70-72 Worcester Court, Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 104:	26 Spring Hill, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 105:	23 Worcester Street, Kidderminster	Commercial Vacant
Lot 106:	Regent House, 50 Frederick Street, Hockley, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 107:	20 Edward Street, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 108:	121 Summerfield Crescent, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 109:	93 Alum Rock Road, Ward End, Birmingham	Residential Vacant/Development
Lot 110:	9 Preston Road, Winslow Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 111:	Coronation Road, Pelsall, Walsall	Commercial Vacant/Development
Lot 112:	7-11 Union Street, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 113:	236 Ludlow Road, New Invention, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 114:	76 Church Road, Aston, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 115:	320 Deans Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
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Lot 132:	9-11 St. Georges Street, Dudley	Residential Vacant
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Lot 134:	43 Hergreaves Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 135:	151 Edenbridge Road, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 136:	1 Trinity Street, Brierley Hill	Residential Vacant
Lot 137:	Flat 2 The Hawthorns, Comberton Road, Kidderminster	Residential Vacant
Lot 138:	167 Hythe Lane, Coseley	Residential Vacant
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People living on new developments often find there is a real sense of community and friendly neighbours

Location so vital in seeking a property

THE location of a new home is an extremely important consideration. Naturally, buyers will have decided in which district they wish to reside.

But the exact nature of the location is often ignored. Houses are built in one of three types of location – the estate development, the vacant plot among older properties and the solitary position without immediate neighbours.

For buyers, it's essential to be clear about which they prefer, because the proximity of others in the neighbourhood, also appreciate a certain

walsallchronicle
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degree of privacy. Moving into an established community allows this slow assimilation and provides the freedom to integrate or not as you wish.

For both the above communities there will be an established infrastructure with public transport, shops and shopping centres, schools, medical and other facilities, all within a reasonable distance.

Each location has its advantages and disadvantages. Each will appeal to specific types of people.

If you are house hunting, think very carefully before you buy or you will be condemned to a home life that is far less conducive to happiness than it ought to be.

K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2011

66 SCHOOL ROAD, TETTENHALL WOOD

3 bed Semi - 2 Reception - for modernisation
Guide: £92,000/£97,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER AT 9.30 am

2 CASTLECROFT AVENUE, CASTLECROFT, WOLVERHAMPTON

Spacious 3 bed Semi in good location
Through Lounge, large Kitchen, Gas CH, Garage

Guide: £115,000/£125,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER at 10.15 am

41 MANLOVE STREET, PENN FIELDS

Late Victorian 3 bed Terraced, 2 Reception - needs improvement
Guide: £69,000/£74,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER at 11.00 am

152 ALDERSLEY ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Late 19th Century End Terraced for modernisation
2 Reception, 2 Beds

Guide: £53,000/£58,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER at 11.45 am

190 BUSHBURY LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON

3 bed Semi offering good letting potential
Guide: £63,000/£68,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER at 12.30 pm

244 BROMLEY LANE, KINGSWINFOR

Smart 3 bed Semi, extended kitchen, garage, pleasant rear garden
Guide: £98,000/£103,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER at 9.30 am

44 DILLOWAYS LANE, WILLENHALL

For Investment - 3 bed Mid terraced
Tenanted - £4,732 + per annum

Guide: £49,000/£54,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER at 10.45 am

46 DILLOWAYS LANE, WILLENHALL

Large 3 bed End Terraced, altered/extended Ground Floor, garage

Guide: £63,000/£68,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER at 11.00 am

18 WINDSOR ROAD, PARKFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON

Detached with spacious rooms, 3 beds, 2 reception, kitchen extension

Guide: £64,000/£69,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER at 11.45 am

38 FAIRVIEW ROAD, PENN, WOLVERHAMPTON

Pleasant location, well presented, 3 bed Semi. Quick sale desired

Guide: £112,000/£117,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 9th AND 10th SEPTEMBER at 12.30 pm

DUDLEY

Shop Investment, current income £11,000 p.a.x

Guide: £85,000/£95,000

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MARDEN CLOSE, WILLENHALL

- Well Presented Modern Style Semi
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- Attractive Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen with Hob & Oven
- Ample off-road Parking

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QUEENS LEA (OFF LUCKNOW RD), WILLENHALL

- Three bedrooomed semi-detached
- Double glazing and gas central heating
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen with large dining area
- Off road parking facilities
- Perfect for first time buyer

OFFERS £109,950

COBDEN STREET, DARLASTON

- Immaculate modernised terraced house
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- 2 Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen with hob and oven
- 2nd Floor Bathroom and Downstairs W.C.
- Wider than average rear garden

OFFERS £92,500

BLOXWICH ROAD SOUTH, WILLENHALL

- Three bedrooomed end terrace
- Deceptively spacious
- Two reception rooms
- Spacious kitchen
- Utility room
- Extensive double glazing and central heating

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BROADWAY NORTH, WALSALL

- ★ Extended Detached Property
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- ★ GCH & DG

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- ★ Refurbished Semi-Detached House
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- ★ GCH & DG
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- ★ Front Driveway

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- ★ Kitchen & Bathroom
- ★ Conservatory & Parking Space
- ★ DG & GCH

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GREEN LANE, SHELFIELD

- ★ Modernised Mid Terrace
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- ★ Two Reception Rooms
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- ★ First Floor Flat
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- ★ UPVC DG
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- ★ Shower Room

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GLAISEDALE GROVE, WILLENHALL

- ★ Semi detached House
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- ★ Lounge
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- ★ DG & GCH
- ★ Parking

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- ★ GCH/DG
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- ★ No DSS, No Children, No Pets, No Smokers

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- ★ First floor flat
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- ★ Bathroom
- ★ On parking space

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LANGLEY Hall is a distinguished Georgian country residence with superb views over fields and farmland to the south of Wolverhampton.

The price of the property in Langley Road, Lower Penn has been reduced £75,000 to £625,000.

The present owners have transformed the Grade 2-listed house with a comprehensive decorative makeover which has created a light and airy feel while maintaining its period charm and features.

The house stands in a rural yet accessible location within easy reach of the surrounding local facilities as well as having good access to the M5, M6 and M54 links.

Recess

Approached through electric wrought-iron gates, the property briefly comprises a choice of reception rooms, conservatory, farmhouse-style dining kitchen, office, utility room, basement room, wine cellar, five bedrooms, bathrooms/shower rooms, detached garage, leisure room, spa chalet, excellent lawned rear garden with terracing and patio areas that border open fields.

The dining kitchen has a full range of crafted, panelled wall and base mounted pine units with granite tiled working surfaces and tiled splash backs, inset double bowl sink unit,



Langley Hall, Lower Penn, Wolverhampton, has been reduced in price by £75,000 to £625,000

integrated larder fridge, range cooker set within an exposed brick recess with beam above, part-beamed and raftered ceiling and large, shelved pantry cupboard and breakfast area with French doors.

The conservatory makes for a wonderful summer room and informal reception area, with French doors to the terrace.

Call agent Nick Tart on 01902 755585 for more details.



The property has some spectacular views over fields and nearby farmland

01922 632563

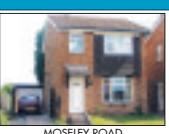
www.asrproperties.co.uk



WALSALL
MELLISH ROAD
Unfurnished 2 bedroom apartments
•Electric heating
•Double glazing
•Gas Central Heating
•Open plan living/dining
•Kitchen/Diner
£699pcm



REEDSWOOD
CONWAY CLOSE
Unfurnished three bedroom house
•Gas Central Heating
•Double Glazing
•Reception room
•Kitchen/Diner
£550pcm



MOSELEY ROAD
WILLENHALL
Unfurnished Three bedroom house
Central Heating
Double Glazed
Off Road Parking
No White Goods
£550pcm



LET AGREED
WALSALL
SMITHS FLOUR MILL
Unfurnished two bed apartment
•Double glazing
•Electric heaters
•Fridge/freezer
•Washer/dryer
£490pcm



WILLENHALL
CONVAY CRESCENT
Unfurnished three bedroom house
•Double Glazed
•Central Heating
•Fridge/freezer
•Garden
£500pcm



LET AGREED
BORNEO STREET
WALSALL
part furnished two bed terrace house
•Batts area of Walsall
•Two reception room
•Gas central heating
•Road Side Parking
•Double glazing
£495pcm



WALSALL
SOUTHMEAD WAY
Unfurnished two bed apartment
•Central heating
•Double glazing
•Kitchen with most appliances
•Master bedroom en-suite
£450pcm



BROWNHILLS
HILLSIDE CLOSE
Refurbished two bedroom flat
•Two good size bedrooms
•Gas central heating
•Double glazing
•New bathroom with a power shower
£450pcm



WALKER ROAD
WALSALL
Unfurnished two bed Apartment
•Washing machine
•Cooker & Hob
•Spacious lounge
•Bathroom with bath & shower
£425pcm



TELFORD
MILL BANK
Unfurnished two bed flat will be available to let in mid November
•First floor
•Double bedroom
•Single bedroom
£450pcm



SAUSBURY HOUSE
WEST BROMWICH
Ground floor two bedroom flat
•Double Glazed
•Off Road Parking
No White Goods
Electric Heating
£445



TIPTON
CHURCHFIELD CLOSE
Unfurnished three bedroom flat
•Central Heating
•Single Glazed
•Off Road Parking
•Electric Cooker
£450pcm



WEDNESBURY
COOK STREET
Unfurnished two bedroom apartment
•Washer/dryer
•Audio telephone entry system
•Storage/panel heating
•Fridge/freezer
£425pcm



WEDNESBURY
MONARCH COURT
Unfurnished Two bed Apartment
•Bathroom with shower
•Electric heaters
•Oven & Hob
•Fridge/Freezer
£425pcm



WALSALL
DEERMEAD COURT
Unfurnished two bedroom
•Gas central heating
•Allocated parking
•Washer/dryer
•Fridge/Freezer
£425pcm



WILLENHALL
THE PINNACLE
Unfurnished two bedroom apartment
•Walsall town centre
•Double glazing
•Storage heating
•Reception room
£425pcm



WALSALL
MOORSIDE
A well presented two Unfurnished bedroom second floor flat.
•Central Heating
•Double Glazed
•Parking
£395pcm



WALSALL
WESTLEY COURT
Unfurnished two bed apartment
•Fitted kitchen most appliances
•Gas central heating
•Double glazing
•Allocated parking.
£380pcm



WALSALL
HOSPITAL STREET
Fully furnished house share
•Bills inclusive of rental & wireless broadband
•Most rooms wired with Sky TV
•Shared Kitchen & bathroom
•Suitable for professionals
£395pcm



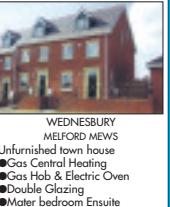
WALSALL
ORIEL CHAMBERS
Unfurnished one bedroom apartment
•Close to shops & bus service
•Large open plan lounge
•Open plan lounge to kitchen
•Kitchen fitted with most appliances.
£350pcm



WALSALL
WOODCROFT COURT
•Unfurnished One bed apartment
•Ground floor with Double glazing
•Gas central heating
•Open plan lounge to kitchen
•Bathroom with electric shower
£400 PCM



WALSALL
SOUTHMEAD WAY
Unfurnished two bedroom apartment
•Parking
•Central Heating
•White Goods
•Double Glazing
•Bathroom with electric shower
£450pcm



WEDNESBURY
MELFORD MEWS
Unfurnished town house
•Gas Central Heating
•Gas Hob & Electric Oven
•Double Glazing
•Master bedroom Ensuite
£595pcm



TAMEBRIDGE
MISTLETOE DRIVE
•Unfurnished two bedroom house
•Good size reception room
•Double glazing
•Gas central heating
•Parking for one vehicles.
£525pcm

			
WILLENHALL WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD WEST	WILLENHALL BROAD LANE NORTH	ESSINGTON SHERRINGHAM DRIVE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Extended and improved traditional style semi * Three bedrooms * Gas central heating * UPVC double glazed windows <p>£144,950 OFFERS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 20ft extended dining kitchen with appliances * Bathroom with Jacuzzi bath and shower * Lovely established rear garden with timber decked patio * Block paved driveway <p>£150,000 NO CHAIN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pleasantly appointed semi detached property * Some internal modernisation required * Three bedrooms * Gas radiator central heating * Majority UPVC double glazed windows * Two reception rooms * Generous enclosed rear garden * Viewing recommended <p>£179,950 NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £169,950 NO CHAIN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gas central heating * UPVC double glazed windows * 16ft extended kitchen * 16ft extended dining room
			
SUMMER HAYES STIRLING CRESCENT	WILLENHALL PRINCETON ROAD	FEATHERSTONE MONUMENT DRIVE, OFF CANNOCK ROAD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pleasant semi detached bungalow * Two bedrooms * Gas central heating * UPVC double glazed windows <p>WAS £122,500 NOW £122,500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Spacious 1.7ft rear lounge * Fitted kitchen * bathroom with shower * Garage and ample off road parking * No upward chain <p>£144,950 OFFERS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pleasantly presented modern style and town house * Three bedrooms * UPVC double glazed windows * Gas central heating * First floor dining inc. oven and hob * Upstairs fitted bathroom with separate shower cubicle * Downstairs guest cloakroom with WC * Off road parking <p>£199,950 NO CHAIN</p>	

The image displays five separate property listings arranged horizontally. Each listing includes a small orange 'Reduced' or 'New' badge in the top left corner, a thumbnail image of the house, the estate name, and a detailed description with key features and price.

- WILLENHALL DOVEDALE AVENUE**
★ Traditional style semi detached property
★ In need of some modernization
★ Excellent potential to improve
★ Three bedrooms
WAS £117,500 NOW £110,000
- WILLENHALL PERTH ROAD, SUMMER HAYES ESTATE**
★ Pleasant link detached bungalow in cul-de-sac position
★ Two bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
WAS £145,950 NOW £142,950 NO CHAIN
- NEW INVENTION SANDRINGHAM AVENUE**
★ Pleasantly appointed semi in popular location
★ Corner plot position with potential to extend (STPP)
★ Three bedrooms
★ 18ft rear lounge
★ Garage and off road parking
★ Pleasant gardens to front and rear
★ Internal viewing strongly recommended
£145,000 OFFERS
- COPPIE FARM COPPIE FARM WAY**
★ Spacious extended modern style detached residence
★ Four bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Large 18ft extended dining kitchen
★ Family bathroom with corner bath
★ Garage and driveway
★ Gardens to front, rear and side
£239,950 OFFERS
- COPPIE FARM ULLSWATER ROAD**
★ Spacious modern style detached residence
★ Popular Coppice Farm development
★ En suite bedrooms
★ Superb 25ft refined dining kitchen with appliances
★ Garage and ample off road parking
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
£235,000 OFFERS



**WILLENHALL
LINCOLN AVENUE**

- ★ Traditional style town house in popular location
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double glazed windows
- ★ Spacious 19ft through lounge
- ★ Playroom
- ★ Upstairs bathroom with shower
- ★ Block paved driveway

£89,995 NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
KINNER AVENUE**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed town house in popular location
- ★ Ideal for first time purchasers
- ★ Popular location near to Pool Hayes School
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Gardens and off road parking
- ★ 19ft through lounge
- ★ Upstairs bathroom with shower

£94,950



**NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL
LICHFIELD ROAD**

- ★ Delightful extended detached bungalow
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Gardens and off road parking
- ★ Extended kitchen and dining room
- ★ Garage and carpet
- ★ Pleasant gardens

WAS £189,950 NOW £164,950



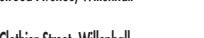
**WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE**

- ★ Superb modern style town house
- ★ One bedroom
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazing
- ★ Refitted kitchen with oven and hob
- ★ Allocated parking
- ★ Pleasant rear garden
- ★ Viewing Recommended

£86,250



A horizontal row of five property photographs. From left to right: 1. A two-story brick house with a prominent front door and windows, with a 'REduced' orange arrow graphic in the top left corner. 2. A modern semi-detached house with a light-colored exterior and large windows. 3. A two-story house with a red brick lower section and a white upper section with a balcony. 4. A modern townhouse with a light-colored facade and a small garden area. 5. A two-story brick house with a blue double-gated entrance.

	NEW INVENTION JOHN RILEY DRIVE		SHORTHBEATH BLOXWICH ROAD NORTH		COPPICE FARM COTSWOLD GROVE		Stroud Avenue, Willenhall	- One bed first floor flat -	£460 pcm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pleasantly appointed detached - Family residence - 4 bedrooms - 3 reception rooms - PVCU double glazed windows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gas central heating - Fitted kitchen - Large bathroom with shower - Generous gardens to the rear - Integral garage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Considerably improved traditional style detached bungalow - Two bedrooms - En suite shower room - Two reception rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Refitted kitchen with appliances - Carpet and ample off road parking - Gas central heating - UPVC double glazed windows. - Internal wall insulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pleasant first floor maisonette being delightfully situated - Purpose built development - One bedroom - Electric storage heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Double glazed windows - Shower room - Bathroom with shower - Ground floor shower room and parking - No restrictions, 55 years old minimum. - 75% SHARED OWNERSHIP 	<p>£149,950</p>	Clothier Street, Willenhall	- Three bed end house -	£475 pcm
						£210,000 OFFERS NO CHAIN	Dartmouth Avenue, Willenhall	- Three bed town house -	£475 pcm
						£54,995	Nordley Road, Wednesfield	- Three bed town house -	£495 pcm
							Hopwood Lock Court, Willenhall	- Two bed apartment -	£550 pcm
							Lichwood Road, Wednesfield	- One bed first floor flat -	£400 pcm

Willehalm
www.williehalm.net

Willenhall
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Wednesfield
01902 732324

Tipton
0121 520 2255

Wednesbury
0121 505 1818

Bilston
01902 353578

Sedgley
01902 686868

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residential lettings and property management



Broadwater Road, Wednesbury
£650 pcm



Hollyhock Court, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton
£650 pcm



City Road, Tividale
£795 pcm



Holy Hedge Road, West Bromwich
£850 pcm



Farm End Close, West Bromwich
£850 pcm



Smithmore Crescent, West Bromwich
£895 pcm



Moseley Road, Portobello, Willenhall
£550 pcm



Riverbank Road, Willenhall
£550 pcm



Harrington Croft, Wigmore Fields **NEW**
£550 pcm



Great Meadow, Crystal Gardens, Tipton
£575 pcm



Hollyhock Court, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton
£595 pcm



Keyte Close, Tipton
£600 pcm



Hillbury Drive, Copse Farm, Willenhall
£525 pcm



Fraser Street, Bilston
£525 pcm



Monkgate Drive, West Bromwich
£525 pcm



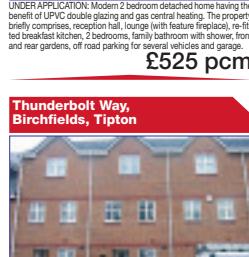
Anita Avenue, Tipton
£525 pcm



Ward Street, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton
£550 pcm



Waite Road, Willenhall
£550 pcm



Thunderbolt Way, Birchfields, Tipton
£500 pcm



Hawksford Crescent, Low Hill, Wolverhampton
£500 pcm



Martin Street, Parkfields, Wolverhampton
£500 pcm



Patricia Drive, Tipton **NEW**
£510 pcm



Sheridan Street, West Bromwich
£525 pcm



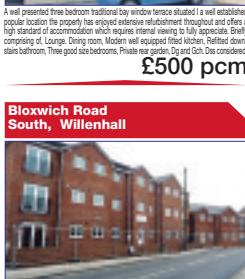
Greencroft, Bilston
£525 pcm



Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall, Wolverhampton
£495 pcm



Elizabeth Mews, Tividale
£495 pcm



Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall
£495 pcm



Westfield Road, Bilston
£495 pcm



Durham Drive, West Bromwich
£500 pcm



Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston
£500 pcm



Mason Street, West Bromwich
£475 pcm



Corporation Street, Wednesbury
£475 pcm



Cook Street, Wednesbury
£450 pcm



All Saints Way, West Bromwich
£450 pcm



Carnegie Avenue, Tipton
£300 pcm



Williams Barrow Way, Tipton
£250 pcm

UNDER APPLICATION A mid-terrace property which has the benefits from central heating and is part double glazed. Briefly comprising two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, family bathroom with shower over bath, two double bedrooms. The accommodation has an enclosed rear garden. Viewing 0121 525 5520

£475 pcm

A well presented two-bedroom traditional terrace. Situated in a popular location close to excellent local amenities and with easy access to M6 Motorway networks. Briefly comprising of Two reception rooms, Fitted Kitchen, having oven and hob, allocated parking space. Viewing 0121 525 5520

£475 pcm

The property comprises a modern third floor apartment having the benefit of electric heating and double glazing. The accommodation includes two bedrooms, bathroom/wc, hall, lounge, fitted kitchen having oven and hob, allocated parking space. Viewing 0121 525 5520

£450 pcm

The property comprises a two-storey masonry having the benefit of part central heating and double glazing. The accommodation includes two bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom/wc, communal gardens, drying area, car parking. Fully furnished. Viewing 0121 525 5520

£450 pcm

A modern ground floor studio apartment, set in a well established neighbourhood with easy access to motorways and rail networks. The property is a good standard of decoration and briefly comprises of Lounge/Bedroom, Fitted kitchen, bathroom/wc, communal garden.

£300 pcm

One room available in new build town houses located in the ever popular David Wilson Hamlets Place. INCLUSIVE of gas, electric, water & council tax. Double bedroom furnished to high standard. Fully fitted kitchen with appliances and utility room. This is professional house share with off street parking, rear garden.

£250 pcm



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7 Queens Parade
Bloxwich
Walsall
WS3 2EX
01922 711444



Long Lane
Great Wrytle

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Dining Room●Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with separate shower cubicle & Corner bath
- Block Paved Front Driveway
- Sorry No DHSS

£695 PCM



Field Road
Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite shower room
- Garage & Car Parking Space to Front
- Rear Garden●Downstairs W.C.●Sorry no DHSS

£650 PCM



Windrush Close

- Two Bedroom Coach House
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite
- One Reception Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom●Rear Garden
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry NO DHSS

£550 PCM



Penblebury Close
Walsall

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£500 PCM



REDUCED

Squires Grove
New Invention

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom, En-Suite
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



Sycamore Road
Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Porch●Lounge●Dining Room
- Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking●Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



West Bromwich Road
Walsall

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating●Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



Furness Close
Bloxwich

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge●Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing●Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



Tanners Court
Walsall

- Two Bed Apartment
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Allocated Parking●Sorry No DHSS

£450 PCM



Bloxwich Road
Bloxwich

- Two Bed End Terrace
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bathrooms
- Double Glazing & Heating
- Rear Garden & Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Yemscoft, Lichfield Road
Rushall

- Two Bed Top Floor Flat
- Lounge●Bathroom
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Sorry no DHSS, Smokers or Pets

£450 PCM



Kent Street
Walsall

- Three Bed Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Church Walk, Parish Court
Blakenhall Heath

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Part Furnished & Unfurnished
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
- Secure Entrance●Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Rowland Street
Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- One Reception room
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

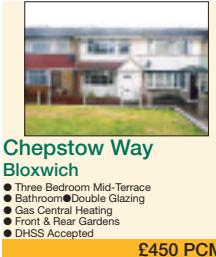
£450 PCM



Beatrice Street
Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Chepstow Way
Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Bathroom●Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Usk Close
Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- Rear Garden●Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Manorhouse Close
Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Lounge/Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

From £435 PCM



Blakenall Heath & Guild Court
Walker Road

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Lounge/Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- DHSS Accepted

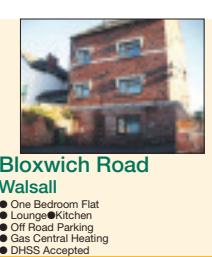
From £425 PCM



Alderley Crescent
Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Central Heating
- Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



Foster Street
Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
- Fitted Kitchen●DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



Argyle Court
Willenhall

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen●Large Bedroom
- Central Heating●Secure Allocated Parking
- Double Glazing●Sorry No DHSS

£390 PCM



Lincoln Road
Walsall

- Three Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

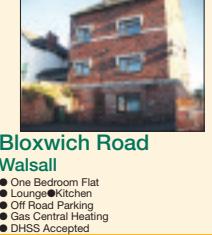
£375 PCM



Harrison Street
Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Bedroom
- Bathroom●Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Bloxwich Road
Walsall

- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£360 PCM



Harrison Street
Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing●Electric heating
- DHSS Accepted

£350 PCM



Barracks Lane
Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Flat
- Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

£325 PCM

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MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS

CHRONICLE

MOTORING

powered by

Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Insignia VXR has badge of quality – everywhere

VAUXHALL has a history of producing sporting cars and have competed in many forms of motor sport over the years, which has delivered some storming cars.

The icon from my day was the original Astra GTE, one of the first hot hatches of the 80s. However, time waits for no-one and the requirements in our modern times are somewhat more sophisticated.

We want high performance handling, which has to be comfortable for everyone, not an ironing board ride, engines that deliver huge amounts of horsepower but sip fuel like a moped, practical luggage space for a whole family and to cap it all we want it to be reasonably priced!

In order to answer these requirements Vauxhall has the VXR range which is the sporting arm of the factory. The one I have on test is the Insignia VXR 2.8 V6 in what I call fire engine red but is fittingly called 'Power Red' in the catalogue.

The shape of the Insignia will be familiar but the VXR has some different features. The first item to grab you is the wheels, which are 20-inch jobs with wide rubber band style low profile tyres.

Even if you're not interested in cars, they immediately signal that this is different from the rest of the range.

The front bumper also sports some mesh grilles which are not just there for show but help cool down the big brake discs and the Brembo brake calipers that are visible through the wheels.

To finish off the ensemble there is a pair of tasteful sports exhausts sticking out of the rear bumper. Then, if

By Neil Ward

you are under any illusion as to what this car is there are VXR badges everywhere.

The VXR theme continues inside with instrument panels, gear lever, pedals and a three spoke steering wheel that is flat at the bottom all being suitably badged. Oh, and as you get in there are VXR alloy sill covers again reminding you that you are entering a different beat from the normal family car.

The front seats are Recaro and are beautifully supportive in all the right places, achieving the comfort and firmness that enable you to tackle almost any form of driving.

Other manufacturers should take note of this. Too many times I have driven high performance versions of family cars to find that the seat is designed for a race-track where even a wallet in the back pocket can mean you don't fit in the seat.

The Insignia VXR is fitted with Vauxhall's latest version of its 2.8 litre 24v Turbo V6 which produces a pleasing 325 bhp horsepower and is fitted to an excellent auto box which helps distribute the power to the four-wheel drive system.

The sound it makes when you bury the throttle pedal and the way it eats up the road would scare many so-called sports cars.

With 0-60 coming up in 5.9 seconds this is a serious performance car and the excellent four-wheel drive

never seems to interfere but does allow the tyres to provide massive amounts of grip in pretty much any situation, providing confidence in being able to use the power when you want and not just in the straight line on a dual carriageway or motorway.

Now I have left the best bit until last – the handling. The previous Vectra VXR was a fearsome beast with huge amounts of understeer. If you drove one of those cars, banish its memory from your mind.

The Insignia VXR has been tested extensively on the fearsome Nürburgring race track to ensure that its road manners are impeccable and I have to say the time the engineers spent there has been worth every penny.

For a car of this size to handle the way it does with a surefooted nimbleness is amazing and will have you looking for the sign that indicates the road has loads of bends.

Sadly, this also means that you are going to be home from just about anywhere and excuse "the car broke down" (unlikely), "the road was closed" (possible) and my all-time favourite "I'm not at work" and all going to wear thin.

So if you are looking for something that is comfortable, practical, family friendly and their luggage area, plus its performance and handling, the bonus of bringing a big smile to your face when you drive it then buy one.

On the other hand if being constantly and having fun with ever more excuses to your better half

why you are late again is a worry you might want to avoid this car.

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AYGO Go! 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 51.4 (5.5), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 61.4 (4.6). CO2 Emissions 105g/km. Auris Edition 1.33 VVT-i 3 door manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 47.9 (5.9). CO2 Emissions 136g/km

CHRONICLE MOTORING

Kia shows Rio hatchback on the ecological catwalk

ATTENTION all Hyundai owners

HYUNDAI



Kia's Rio will have its UK public debut at Ecovelocity, the low carbon motor festival

KIA will be showing a selection of its environmentally conscious EcoDynamics models at this week's EcoVelocity Low Carbon Motor Festival in London.

The new Rio hatchback will make its UK public debut at the exhibition. Visitors to the show, held from September 8-11 in the grounds of Battersea Power Station, will have the opportunity to inspect the all-new Rio and the new Picanto city-car at close quarters, as well as low-emission versions of the cee'd family hatchback and Sportage crossover on a purpose-built test route.

Test drives in the congestion charge-exempt Picanto will be available on a turn-up and drive basis.

The new Rio is set to be the cleanest non-electric vehicle in the world - emitting just 85g/km CO2 and offering 88.3mpg in 1.1 CRDi 111 guise - when it goes on sale on 1st September.

The extremely efficient three-cylinder diesel engine is aided in its quest to deliver ultra-low CO2 emissions by longer gearing, a stop-start system, low-rolling resistance tyres and aerodynamic tweaks to reduce drag.

Joining the Rio on the Kia stand will be the recently launched Picanto. Available now for the first time in both three- and five-door versions, the new Picanto is offered with a 99g/km 1.0-litre engine and a 1.25-litre with emissions from 100g/km when combined with Kia's 'Intelligent Stop and Go' stop-start system. Kia's stylish Sportage crossover, with its 135g/km 1.7 CRDI EcoDynamics turbodiesel and the cee'd hatchback with its very low 103g/km 1.6 CRDI turbodiesel will also be on display.

For more information about Kia's EcoDynamics range of vehicles go to www.kia.co.uk and for further details about the EcoVelocity show, or to buy entry tickets, go to www.ecovelocity.co.uk.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6)-67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3)-91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7)-80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions: 324-94g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 30 September 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.



The Audi S8 is a large and luxurious top of the range saloon



The Audi S6 has average fuel consumption of 29.1mpg

Audi's fresh power quartet

THE 2011 Frankfurt Motor Show will play host to four high-performance Audi S models sharing one new eight-cylinder engine. The new powerplant enables them to counterbalance outputs of up to 520PS with the potential for up to 29mpg.

The new bi-turbo V8, incorporating cylinder-on-demand technology and a host of other advances, replaces the naturally aspirated V10 FSI engine in the all-new S6, S6 Avant and S8 models, and in the process improves economy by as much as 25 per cent. It is also at the heart of a completely new addition to the S quattro Series – the new S7 Sportback.

In the S6 and S6 Avant the new 4.0-litre, twin-turbo V8 delivers ample power with fuel economy in keeping with the times. It appears here in 420PS form, and provides a constant 550Nm of torque from 1,400 to 5,300rpm, enough to catapult the S6 from 0 to 62mph in 4.8 seconds and the S6 Avant in 4.9 seconds, and to spur them on to an electronically governed top speed of 155mph.

Performance

The 4.0 TFSI brings Audi's downsizing strategy to the high-performance class. Compared to the 5.2-litre V10, it offers even stronger performance while reducing fuel consumption by as much as 25 per cent. Average fuel consumption is 29.1mpg in the S6 and 28.8mpg in the S6 Avant, well above that of the competition.

The two new S models are fitted as standard with adaptive air suspension in its firmer "sport" configuration. The tautly tuned air suspension with variable damping lowers the body by 10mm, and provides for highly precise handling without compromising comfort. Four 19-inch cast aluminium wheels in a unique five parallel spoke design frame the black calipers of the powerful front and rear internally ventilated disc brakes, which can be replaced by carbon fibre-ceramic discs as an option.

The Audi S7 Sportback uses the same engine as the S6 and S6 Avant – the new 4.0 TFSI with 420PS and 550Nm of torque. The twin-turbo V8 accelerates the five-door coupe from 0 to 62mph in 4.9 seconds, and top speed is limited to 155mph. The cultivated eight-cylinder, which uses Audi's "cylinder on demand" technology under part load, achieves an impressive combined economy figure of 29.1mpg.

The S7 Sportback is fitted as standard with adaptive air suspension sport and the Audi drive select dynamics system. Mounted behind the 19-inch wheels are large, internally ventilated disc brakes front and rear. Their black calipers are stamped with S7 logos at the front. Carbon fibre-ceramic discs are available as an option. Other chassis options include 20-inch wheels and dynamic steering, which varies its ratio as a function of speed.

Sublime

The Audi S8 is the new head of the Audi S model family – a large and luxurious saloon that can deliver sublime comfort or supreme excitement as required. The new 4.0 TFSI in the S8 generates no less than 520PS and delivers a constant 650Nm of torque to the crankshaft between 1,700 and 5,500rpm. The result is outstanding performance: the sprint from zero to 62mph takes just 4.2 seconds, and top speed is electronically capped at 155mph.

This makes the fuel consumption of the sonorous and smooth twin-turbo V8 all the more amazing: it averages 27.7mpg on the combined cycle, a considerable gain over its competitors, and its predecessor – the 5.2-litre V10 in the previous S8 posted 21.4mpg in the equivalent test. This has been achieved despite a 70PS increase in output.

The new Audi S8 strikes its impressive balance between performance and efficiency with the combined technologies of the Audi modular efficiency platform, including the recuperation and start-stop systems. The newly developed "cylinder on demand" technology also plays a very significant role.

Under part load, it deactivates four of the eight cylinders for an efficiency gain that is particularly pronounced at moderate motorway speeds. A package of acoustic measures including the Active Noise Cancellation system suppresses possible intrusive noise and vibrations.

The eight-speed tiptronic in the S8 unites sportiness and efficiency. It uses tall gears at low revs when possible, but downshifts quickly and comfortably when requested. The tiptronic delivers the power to a quattro drivetrain combining a self-locking centre differential with the sport differential on the rear axle.

During dynamic driving, the lion's share of the power flows to the outside wheel to literally push the large saloon into the corner.



The S6 Avant – power and progress

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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 22.2–61.4 (12.7–4.6), Extra Urban 40.4–67.3 (7.0–4.2), Combined 31.0–64.2 (9.1–4.4). CO₂ emissions: 215–101 g/km. Price Points: £11,735 applies to Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual and includes metallic paint; £12,995 applies to Civic 1.4 Type S i-Shift and excludes metallic paint (£440 extra); £22,365 applies to CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC SE Manual and includes metallic paint; £18,135 applies to CR-Z 1.5 i-VTEC IMA S Manual and includes metallic paint. Offers valid on new retail cars registered from 1 July to 30 September 2011 and *excludes Jazz Hybrid. Honda Hire Purchase: Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe PLC, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Servicing: 4 years free servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first and includes a maximum of 4 services. Free servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only. Roadside Assistance: Covers the vehicle and authorised drivers for 4 years emergency breakdown, subject to the vehicle being maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule.

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Touch rugby touches hearts

IT'S been a busy couple of weeks at Bloxwich Rugby Club in their run up to the new season and the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand which starts this week.

Bloxwich RFC presented a cheque for £850 to Help for Heroes raised by an end of season charity game against Walsall RFC, and wristband sales.

Spectators

The presentation by Richard Geary (club captain) and Daniel Palmer (club president) to Andrea Horton of Help for Heroes was followed by a Touch Rugby event involving adults and children at King George V Playing Fields, Bloxwich.

Touch Rugby fun on the pitch was then rewarded with everyone getting free cake and hot food, plus a trophy for the winning

Pride of Pics as attacks repelled

FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER 0 RUSHALL 0

RUSHALL Olympic became the first side this season to stifle FC United of Manchester's potent strike force as a superb defensive display from the visitors ensured a thoroughly deserved share of the spoils, writes Nick Allen.

With the large vocal home support of a partisan crowd of 2,445 at Gigg Lane, Bury, providing an intimidating atmosphere to welcome little Rushall Olympic, the visitors made a positive opening when as early as the sixth minute a telling low ball from the left by-line from Matt Lewis was well gathered by keeper James Spencer, with Marcus Jackson ready to pounce.

Jacobs again provide the outlet for the hosts in the 13th minute as a through ball sent Matt Wolfenden darting into the right hand side of the penalty area, before pulling a low centre back from the by-line that Gemmell claimed solidly.

On 17 minutes, a foul challenge on the edge of the box by Lucan Spittle on Wolfenden put the visitors in a potentially difficult position, but the resulting free-kick from Jake Cottrell was safely repelled by the defensive wall.

Anxious

With United on the offensive a minute later, Rushall breathed a huge sigh of relief as the extremely tricky Carlos Roca evaded several defensive challenges as he cut inside from the left flank into a central position and unleashed a venomous 25 yard strike that cannoned off the intersection of the left hand upright and the crossbar, with Gemmell static.

The Red Rebels were in control when Wolfenden turned dangerously in box and rifled in pacy effort, only to see the Rushall keeper push the ball away.

Three minutes prior to the interval, only a superbly timed challenge from last man Mitchell Tolley stopped the ever-dangerous Wolfenden.

Following the restart it was the hosts who were back on the offensive as Nicky Platt was picked out in the penalty area by Roca and his resulting snap shot was superbly saved by Gemmell.

There were anxious moments in the Olympic camp in the 69th minute as a deep centre from United substitute Steve Torpey saw the slippery ball drop from the grasp of Gemmell and bounce onto the ground. Thankfully, the stopper was quickest to react.

It took the visitors until the 73rd minute to register arguably their first shot on goal as Richard Blythe curled the ball wide of the top right corner from 25 yards out.

Rushall midfielder Christopher Dacres was in the right place at the right time to clear Wolfenden's strike was off the country as the hosts kept up relentless pressure.

Pics almost had the final say in injury time, though. After a three-man breakaway, Blythe fired Morris, who cut inside, but could only fire wide of the post from 25 yards.

MISTAKES RUIN WOOD'S HOPES OF COMEBACK

SOUTHAM UNITED 4 WALSALL WOOD 2

AN ERROR-strewn first half condemned Wood to their fourth straight defeat. They played better in the second half but the interval 3-0 deficit was too big a mountain to climb, writes Bill Shaw.

The Saints, with the strong wind at their backs, should have gone ahead after only three minutes. A left wing corner somehow found its way to an unmarked Robbie Beard at the far post and he fired back across goal and Ashley Lawler cleared off the line.

Eight minutes later Beard broke down the left, cut inside and set up Josh Cole who finished weakly. On 13 minutes, Jordan Nadat picked up a loose ball in the centre circle, ran at the home defence and his 20 yard drive was inches wide.

Next it was Ian Purvey collecting a right wing free kick on 21 minutes, his ball inside set up Mark Bandurak to hit a rising drive that brought a full stretch save from keeper Jim Stott.

Two minutes later Southam went ahead. Wood gave away a central free kick, Jack Taylor's innocuous effort was spilled by keeper Adam Dennant. Church was first to react to flick the ball into the net.

It got worse on 26 minutes when a clearance only went as far as Tunde Ajibade on the left of the box. He crossed to the far post for Brad Rees to cushion a header into the path of Beard who scored from five yards to put Southam 2-0 up.

It was Ajibade again on 42 minutes cutting in from wide left and firing a cross shot wide of the post.

Wood didn't heed the warning as a minute later Church cut inside from wide on the left,

was allowed to run across the face of the box before scoring with a rising drive into the right hand corner of the net.

Without a minute of the restart it was nearly 4-0, a neat move through the centre tearing open the Wood defence and Scott Cooper getting in a late ditch tackle to dispossess Beard.

Wood pulled a goal back on 51 minutes. Nadat collected Cooper's right wing throw, twisted away from his marker and rolled the ball into the path of Bandurak, who hit a rising drive into the roof of the net to put the visitors back in the lead.

"With us now being more familiar with the courses we play away, and the fact that we have such a solid home record, we should be able to have a good run at winning the league next year."

Mercurio made special mention of Pearce, who went through the Division One season unbeaten.

Meanwhile, the Midweek Stableford was claimed by three-handicapper Grant Guffogg whose gross score of 69 yielded 40 points.

Second was Dave Cowper with 39 points.

Pat Henwood's Indian summer continued when she claimed the Staffs Vets at Drayton Park, recording record a hole-in-one.

Golfers take third spot in first season

WALSALL golfers brought the curtain down on their Scratch League season with a 5-3 reversal at Enville.

But there was honour in defeat for Broadway's finest as they claimed third spot in their inaugural season in the top flight.

Their leading trio of Freddie Sheridan Mills (4&3), Lewis Pearce (5&4) and John Whitehouse (4&3) laid perfect foundation for the visitors with early victories, but the hosts battled back in some style.

Walsall finished the season second champions Drayton Park and second-placed Enville.

Yielded

And their remarkable achievement wasn't lost on Scratch Team regular, James Mercurio, who said: "We all feel that this has been a great season. It has given us something to build on."

"With us now being more familiar with the courses we play away, and the fact that we have such a solid home record, we should be able to have a good run at winning the league next year."

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Riders pedalling length of Britain

TWENTY staff from the Walsall branch of Jenson will be completing a stage of the Tour de Jenson from head office in Coventry to the Stoke-on-Trent branch tomorrow, September 9.

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Richard Geary (left), Andrea Horton (Help for Heroes) and Danny Palmer with members of the Bloxwich youth team

Reed races over for winner

FIRST matches of the season can be scrappy and this preliminary round of the North Midlands Vase was no exception. Both sides battled throughout the first half to establish ascendancy and although the home side possibly held sway, having the more experienced forwards, defences dominated.

Effectively

The scoreboard remained blank until early in the second half when, following a brief period of pressure, Warley winger Richard Bingham crossed out wide.

The Aldridge pack was still in command, though, and two well-struck penalties from No, 10 Mark

ALDRIDGE 13 WARLEY 5

Large that gave them the narrowest of 6-5 leads.

It began to look that this might be the final score but a fine individual effort from Aldridge flanker Adam Reed effectively put the game beyond Warley's reach.

Scrum-half Eddie Simba explored the blind side and good support play put Reed into space.

Brushing off a couple of tackles he showed a clean pair of heels to the defence and galloped 30 metres to score close to the posts.

Large converted and, despite a rally from Warley, Aldridge hung on to claim the spoils.

Grainger so cool to snatch victory

NUNEATON GRIFF 1 PELSALL 2

Pelsall came from a goal behind at half time to take three points away at Nuneaton Griff for the second season in a row, writes Mark Bentley.

A strong wind gave Griff a slight advantage and on 21 min a smart finish from Ashley Wilkes put Griff ahead.

Pelsall started the second half with great tempo and only a magnificent save from Slater kept Bannister's drive out as he powered into the box

Sublime

Villa started to boss the game in midfield and were rewarded on 55 minutes when a cross from Patrick found Daniel Battison, who expertly guided the ball into the corner, giving Slater no chance.

Pelsall scented victory, but were denied by the home keeper until Neil Grainger found space on the edge of the box. His control was sublime and the finish worthy of winning any game.

Pelsall play hosts to Colehill on Saturday in the FA Vase.

Shelfield up to top spot

SHELFIELD 7 THURSDAY 1

THURSDAY climbed to the summit of the Walsall 6 a side Thursday Premier Division as Ryan Jackson orchestrated a commanding 4-1 win over Singh's Six.

They took full advantage of Sallyjoddler's surprise 4-0 reverse at the hands of Shower Dan FC.

Ismutherford staked their claim at the sharp end of the First Division as they hammered seven past FC Bloxwich who could only respond with two.

Walsall Allstars also remain firmly in the hunt for honours as Alex Dickinson proved the difference in a 4-2 win over Scouting For Goals.

Beacon Boys belied their struggling position in the final tier as they strolled eight past the Pelsall Youth defence.

Skipper cracks a winning 83

BLOXWICH 2NDS 170-3 BEAT HAWKINS 169-5 BY 7 WICKETS

BLOXWICH kept up their good form, racing to victory against local rivals Hawkins, writes Emrys Evans.

Hawkins won the toss and fielded, Hawkins captain Bristow (0) was soon back in the pavilion, leg before wicket, to Michael Golder, (3-52), who led the home attack with maturity beyond his years.

He received support from veteran Des Smith (1-24 from 15 overs) as the visitors never really going despite Sean Brazier's 77 not out.

In reply, the early run out of Ben Holloway (2) did little to slow the scoring as Emrys Evans (19) joined opener Kelton Scott (40) at the crease.

When both were out leg before, skipper Stuart Clarke soon eased any fears of a Hawkins win as he proceeded to hit the ball to all parts on route to a sparkling 83 not out.

Bloxwich close the season with a trip to Hammerwich.



Alex Nicholls in full flight down the wing against Shrewsbury Town

Trophy thunderbolts put nervy Saddlers through

JUST ending the Johnstone's Paint Trophy curse is worth a celebration.

On Tuesday last week the Saddlers kissed and made up with their Trophy wife as they edged through the first round for the second time in six seasons.

Two long-range stunners, a penalty miss and victory against a local rival go a long way. The Trophy has always represented Walsall's best chance of Wembley glory and, after the elimination of Sheffield Wednesday, it still does.

Confidence

League Two Shrewsbury, conquerors of Swansea and Derby in the Carling Cup, made it harder than it should have been.

Other than two brilliant first-half rockets from Ryan Jarvis and Richard Taundry, Walsall were underwhelming.

Andy Butler's own goal early in the second-half made sure the hosts were made to work hard for their win.

Alex Nicholls replaced Will Grigg, on duty with Northern Ireland Under-21s.

Town, led by the probing Lionel Ainsworth, posed the Saddlers early problems before the hosts took a stunning lead on 17 minutes.

Little appeared on for Jarvis when he controlled a bouncing ball 30 yards out, but the striker unleashed a looping half volley which gave Shrewsbury keeper Neal no chance.

The Saddlers were suddenly on top and Taundry put them 2-0 up with a stunning long-range strike after Shrewsbury only half-clearance from Kevan Hurst's corner on 35 minutes.

Taundry was again at the centre of the team's best moves as he continued his rapid rise from midfield terrier to dominant force.

Shrewsbury pulled one back two minutes after the restart when Joe Jacobson's cross skinned off Butler's head and beat Grof. From a position of comfort the Saddlers were suddenly under threat.

The goal rocked Smith's side and they failed to recapture their rhythm.

But Jarvis, who scored from the spot against Bournemouth, smashed a 70th-minute penalty against the underside of the bar after Nicholls was fouled.

Replied, the Shrews hunted a leveller but, for all their neat build-up, couldn't find a way through.

When they did eventually breach the Saddlers' backline, Grof produced a double reaction save to deny Tom Bradshaw.

Walsall: Grof, Westlake, Butler, Smith, Sadler, Gnappa (Peterlin 78, Nichols, Chambers, Hurst, Jarvis, Beever 85, Nicholls). Shrewsbury Town: Neal, Grandison, Canfield, Sheriff, Hazel, Jacobson, Ainsworth (Wright 63, Moxon, Webster (Wright 78, Leslie, Gorrell, Morgan 63), Bradshaw. Referee: J. Adcock (Notts); Attendance: 2,605.

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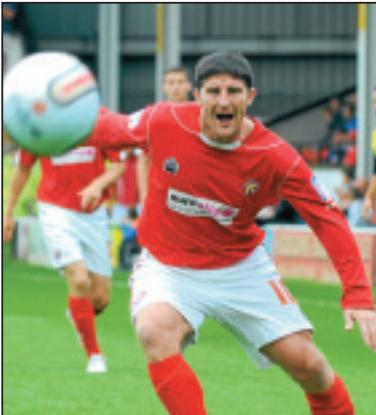
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Walsall's Kevan Hurst rises above the Brentford defence



Saddlers' man of the match, defender Mat Sadler, clears



Jon Macken was off the pace and had to be replaced

SMITH SORE AS POINTS GO BEGGING

BOSS Dean Smith says Walsall fell well short of his standards on Saturday and tossed a win "down the drain".

The Saddlers went down 1-0 to Brentford at the Banks's Stadium to put the brakes on early-season optimism, and the manager warned his men he expects better after their first home defeat of the new League One season.

"It's three points down the drain for me. It's a chance missed because we're more than capable of beating Brentford and we should have done."

"We didn't turn up first-half and were quite rightly a goal down. With the second-half

WALSALL 0 BRENTFORD 1

show we should have got something out of it."

Smith added: "They all know what my expectations of them are. We'll brush ourselves down and get ready for the next game. "We didn't have a spark. We should have had a point at least and we're disappointed to come away with nothing."

Smith admitted his gamble in starting Jon Macken backfired.

Macken, who turned 34 this week, had missed the previous two games with an ankle injury, and aggravated the problem.

He said: "I took a bit of a gamble with Jon Macken. He clearly needed a few days more."

The home record over the past three years

has been patchy. Of the last 72 home league games, Walsall have won just 30.

The problem looked to have been solved until Saturday. But the woeful first half was a worrying throwback to a time almost forgotten. They were subdued and sloppy, far from the slick outfit who won at Bournemouth.

Walsall's start to the season has gone from good to promising and now stands at average.

The improvements are there – Richard Taundry, Darryl Westlake and Oliver Lancashire are living proof – but there is already cause for regret this term.

Regret

The temptation to bypass midfield, especially in the first 45 minutes, proved too great as the defence launched passes to the often isolated Jon Macken and Ryan Jarvis.

True pace was conspicuous in its absence. Alex Nicholls provides the raw speed, but it is overshadowed by the lack of final product.

Clayton Donaldson's first-half header, after he outmuscled Manny Smith, deservedly gave Brentford the points.

Kevan Hurst was thwarted by Richard Lee's fine stop, but the closest the Saddlers came was when Ryan Jarvis' 30-yard rocket hit the post midway through the second half.

Nicholls almost rescued a point at the death when his rising drive was beaten away by Lee.

Walsall: Grof, Sadler, Westlake, Butler, Smith, Nicholls, Chambers, Taundry, Hurst, Macken (capped, 52), Jarvis.

Brentford: Lee, Thompson, Eger, Osborne, Woodman, Bean, O'Connor, Douglas, Wood (Forrester, 68), Donaldson (Alexander, 88), Weston (Spillane, 76).

Referee: Chris Foy (Lancashire).
Attendance: 3,972.



Walsall keeper David Grof is unable to keep out Clayton Donaldson's winning header



Walsall's Kevan Hurst battles for an aerial ball with Brentford's Karleigh Osborne



Midfielder Adam Chambers drives at the heart of the Brentford defence, watched by Ryan Jarvis

Bonus icing on cake as Walsall are off to a flier

BEDWORTH 29 WALSALL 44

A STRONG second half performance saw Walsall gain a bonus point victory to get their Midlands 1 West season off to a great start, writes Arnie Evans.

The visitors had the worst possible start at newly-promoted Bedworth, when outside half Matt Wood was forced to leave the field after just three minutes.

The re-organisation saw John Pette come on to play his first game for the club.

Even though they were playing against a strong breeze, Walsall enjoyed territorial superiority and should have taken advantage of several try scoring opportunities during the first 40 minutes.

But five penalties gave Bedworth team a 15-13 interval lead.

Walsall, however, displayed the greater attacking potential and, in scrum half Liam Lloyd, found a replacement kicker. He put over two first half penalties and converted a try by new prop Russ Gauden, who drove over after Mould, Wootton and Halbert had made good ground.

Rewarded

The visitors virtually sealed their win with two tries in ten minutes of the second half.

Ful back Mould scored the first after Tierney and Wootton had combined well before some neat passing from Pette and Fitzgerald created the space for Mould.

Lloyd converted from wide out and produced a similar kick when he converted Steve Halbert's try six minutes later. A good run by another debutant, Ria Ingelmo, set up another Fitzgerald surge. When it was spectacularly stopped, the Walsall skipper gathered the ball and dived over.

There were six minutes left before the visitors scored their bonus point try. Fly half Pette gathered a loose ball and ran more than 50 metres to score.

Two minutes later No.8 Rod Dickson made run and found Ingelmo in support. The young Spaniard made ground before delivering a pass to Andy Turner. The powerful winger, playing his first game for 18 months, finished off the style.

Players and coaches at Walsall will be delighted with the early season performance of the senior teams, as all three teams registered victories.

Walsall United had a comfortable 21-0 win at Newcastle. Will Emes continued to display his try scoring prowess, with two. Matt Foster got another and Ed Mott converted all three.

Walsall 3rd XV hung on to win 12-10 against GE St Leonards 2nds. Laurence Quigley and Gregg Whitbrook got their tries.

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